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Russian Foreign Ministry Welcomes French Vote on Maastricht Treaty

"The positive results of the referendum held in France on the fate of the Maastricht Treaty were met in Moscow with satisfaction," according to a statement issued by a representative of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 21 September, reports ITAR-TASS. Linking the prospect of European unity to ties with Russia, the spokesman also said: "At the same time, we believe that the further advancement of the Community along the path of economic and political integration would be incomplete without the proper development of cooperation and partnership with other democratic states of the continent, among which we include Russia."

Yeltsin, Gaydar Agree to Proceed With Economic Reforms

Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar met in Moscow on 18 September and reached an agreement on "further deepening economic reforms," reports ITAR-TASS. The two leaders also discussed the deferment of payment of debts to the United States and Germany, the recently announced decision to increase fuel prices in the republic, and the current financial situation, "taking account of the falling exchange rate for monetary units within the European currency area." In addition, "during a discussion of winter preparations and a stocktaking of the first results of this work, it was noted that there are no grounds for anxiety over providing the population with food and fuel."

No Majority in Estonian Presidential Elections; Assembly Must Choose

"According to the preliminary results of the presidential elections in Estonia on Sunday, none of the four candidates for the post of the Head of State gained the required absolute majority of votes," reports ITAR-TASS. In the absence of a clear winner, the State Assembly will now have to choose between the first- and second-place finishers: Arnold Ruutel, chairman of the parliament, who garnered 42.67 percent of the votes, and Lennart Meri, former foreign minister and currently ambassador to Finland, who tallied 28.77 percent.

Tajikistan President Names Acting Prime Minister

"By decree of [Tajikistan] acting President Akbar Iskandarov, the duties of prime minister were today invested temporarily in Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov," reports ITAR-TASS. The decree notes that "Abdullodzhanov has been entrusted temporarily, until the convening of the next session of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, with carrying out the duties of prime minister of the Republic of Tajikistan."

Russian Internal Affairs Ministry Deploys More Troops in North Caucasus

In an effort to combat "ever-growing" arms and drugs traffic flowing into Russia from the northern Caucasus, the Ministry of Internal Affairs "has dispatched an additional contingent of its troops" to the area, according to Moscow international radio. "Combat units and a special police battalion will be quartered in North Ossetia, Kabardino-Balkaria Dagestan, and the Stavropol and Krasnodar regions." The ministry, in announcing the dispatch, affirmed that "the internal troops will see to it that no more arms are smuggled into southern Russia and will also help the local authorities to maintain law and order."

Shaposhnikov Talks Coordinate Strategic Plans

PM2109103992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Sep 92 p 3

["Direct Line" report from the CIS Joint Armed Forces Main Command Public Information Center]

[Text] Moscow—During the 10-15 September period Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, met with the heads of state and the defense ministers of the following CIS states: the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine, during which they discussed questions of strategic stability and the status of the CIS Strategic Forces. The sides' positions on these questions have now been coordinated in full. Commonwealth states' experts have started elaborating appropriate documents, based on earlier decisions and agreements.

Military Leaders Assess Collective Security

MK2109040292 Moscow PRIORITIES AND PROSPECTS in English No 3, Sep 92 pp 15-19

["Conversation" with Air Force Marshal Ye. Shaposhnikov, Army General Yu. Maksimov, and Defense Minister P. Grachev by Colonel V. Litovkin; place, date not given; under the rubric "CIS Collective Security": "A New Chance"]

[Text] The Treaty on Collective Security signed this May in Tashkent by the heads of six member states of the Commonwealth—Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Armenia—was welcomed by many military leaders of the Russian Federation and of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Commander in Chief of the CIS united armed forces, Air Force Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, soon after the Tashkent summit and his office removal from the "White House" on Arbat Square to the building of the former headquarters of the Warsaw Treaty Organization united armed forces in Leningrad Prospect, receiving me in his new office, analyzed the results of the summit.

[Shaposhnikov] There are four reasons showing that the prospects of the military union can be considered as good. Those reasons are of historical, economic, political and pure military nature. The main achievement is the preservation of historical union of peoples which over the centuries lived side by side, together fighting against the common enemy. Their fates are interlaced not only through joint business activities and collective work. Due to the military union we have an additional chance to put an end to the process of general disintegration of the former USSR, violation and rupture of economic ties, paralysis of producing cooperative system, especially in the defence industry. Now we are able to maintain a common scientific, technological, experimental and design, as well as production base, to provide the armed forces, the Navy with sophisticated military equipment and at the same time to carry on a deep and carefully thought out conversion to the benefit of all the peoples. For example, a self-propelled howitzer is manufactured at 14 plants, 12 of which are in Russia, one in Georgia and one in Kazakhstan. Without production of all those plants this hardware cannot become a weapon.

[Litovkin] It seems that this problem was discussed at the recent Moscow meeting of representatives of radio industry of Russia, the Ukraine and Belarus, since at their enterprises there are manufactured various components of the antimissile and early warning defence systems. The scientific and research base of this branch, its brains trust, is situated in Russia, in Moscow, while the base of production—labor force and the rest—is the Ukraine, in Dniepropetrovsk, Nikolayev, Lvov, in Belarus, in the Gomel region, and in the Kazakhstan testing ground. Without close cooperation, mutual research and production ties it cannot work, cannot maintain in working conditions the now existing system of the CIS member states space defence and continue its improvement. It is obvious that without such infrastructure it would be hardly possible to withstand new weaponry to be used in a possible armed struggle.

[Shaposhnikov] You are right. The military reason is one of the most important reasons in our defence union. I think that it includes all other reasons. Geostrategic interests of all the CIS member states are so closely related that it would be simply foolish to disjoin them. National security of every state is part of the common geostrategic security of the CIS. Security acting alone is not reliable. It should not have borders. The systems of early warning, of antiaircraft defence, of communication, control and support—all the military infrastructure—is a material substance of militaro-strategic space, and it must not be destroyed.

But beside the geostrategic military infrastructure there is a vertically and horizontally, along all its links and structures coordinated common system of combat and mobilization readiness, of operational-strategic planning, of using repelling aggression from any direction. Also it is necessary to think beforehand about the equipment of the possible theaters of combat activities. All this is an important part of the structure of common security. It includes the coordinated in the framework of the sole union, while taking into account national features of some or other country, its traditions and interests, united system of military training, education of soldiers, the legal and social defence, provision with all kinds of allowance, starting with finance allowance and finishing by food ration, including pensions for all the retired servicemen.

Unfortunately, at the Tashkent and the other meetings of heads of state and military departments the CIS leaders could not reach agreements on all the important defence questions. For instance, at the Moscow late May meeting the Commonwealth defence ministers were not able to coordinate their actions. What is more, the meeting was held without representative of the defence ministries of Moldova and Azerbaijan. The Georgia representative participated in the meeting as an observer. There is little hope that in future all the defence problems will find their coordinated solution.

Why is it so? The reasons are numerous. For instance, the legal difficulties. Belarus did not sign the Treaty on Collective Security. In principle it has no objections against the Treaty provisions, but it did not sign it because the republic legislation forbids it to enter any military alliance. There are also financial problem. For the pleasure to have its own armed forces and at the same time to make use of the common systems of military infrastructure and control one should pay a lot of money. Turkmenistan, for instance, does not have such money. Never since its entering in the former Soviet Union it has paid the full share in the defence budget. And now the Turkmen-Russian forces on the territory of Turkmenistan will be financed by Russia.

But there are even more serious than financial, technical or legal reasons hampering the creation of a common defence union. The most important of them are connected with outbursts and even explosions of nationalism in the state and military policies of some CIS member countries. The examples, unfortunately, are not limited by Moldova, Azerbaijan or Georgia. Their refusal to participate in the defence union was predictable. The complicated and intricate relations between the biggest CIS members—Russia and the Ukraine—that is what gives rise to astonishment.

In spite of the declared by the Ukrainian parliament course of non-participation in any military unions, the leading representatives of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry regularly attend all the meetings of the CIS leaders and military departments. They were present at the Tashkent and in the Moscow May meetings. It is supposed that they would participate in the work of the Council of the Defence Ministers in Minsk and the meeting of Heads of State in Moscow.

By the way, on May 26 the first deputy of the Ukrainian Defence Minister, Lieutenant-General Ivan Bezhan, signed in Moscow the agreement on the participation of his country in the common system of antimissile defence and early warning, in coordination of antiaircraft defence, in space communications, reconnaissance, navigation, aircraft identification...

At the same time, the Ukraine took some unilateral decision running counter to the concept of all-round security, undermining the agreements between the CIS countries and international agreements. It concerns not so much the Black Sea Fleet and the implementation of the clauses of the Treaty on the limitation of conventional arms in Europe, but rather the treaties on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and on the limitation of offensive strategic arms.

No doubt, it gives rise to anxiety.

Interview with the Commander in Chief of the CIS Strategic Forces, General of the Army Yuriy Maksimov

[Litovkin] What can you say about the implementation of the treaties on non-proliferation of nuclear arms and on the limitation of strategic arms after the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States?

[Maksimov] In accordance with the agreements concluded in Alma-Ata and Minsk by the Commonwealth member countries and international commitments of the presidents of Russia, the Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the strategic forces and strategic nuclear weapons, stationed in the territories of those four CIS states, are subject to centralized command and must be under the united command and control of the Commander in Chief of strategic forces. Those documents also determine the procedure of subordination, adoption of decisions on the necessity of using strategic forces, as well as their status. The delegations of Russia, the Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan signed in Lisbon the Protocol to the Treaty on Limitation of Offensive Weapons. In accordance with this Protocol, Russia remains the legal successor of the USSR with the status of nuclear power. The Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan committed themselves to follow the international treaties, signed earlier by the USSR, and not to claim the possession of nuclear arms. In spite of those and some other engagements, the Ukraine, however, took steps aimed at taking under its command the strategic arms stationed on its territory. The Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk issued an edict under which all the strategic nuclear forces stationed in the territory of the Ukrainian state should be included into its armed forces. With this aim in mind, in the Ukraine Ministry of Defence a special body—Center of Administrative Command of strategic nuclear armed forces—is being created. Those acts have been practically establishing a double command and control over strategic nuclear forces. This seriously limits the functions of the strategic forces united command and leads objectively to the infringement of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Ukraine in fact becomes the subject, possessing nuclear arms. But the CIS nuclear potential cannot be splitted. It can start a chair reaction fraught with danger.

Taking under its jurisdiction and administrative control a group of strategic armed forces, the Ukrainian leadership deprives the Moscow command of the possibility to manning the troops, choosing and appointing officers of missile units, makes the officers of those troops take the oath to the Ukrainian people. The central command is only to carry out operational command and control over strategic forces—the duty, nuclear readiness, good condition of combat equipment.

[Litovkin] However, according to the experts of the Strategic Forces Main Headquarters, the people being on duty and bearing responsibility for the nuclear push-button cannot be subjected to double command from Kiev and Moscow. What is your opinion?

[Maksimov] In the Ukraine there are stationed 76 strategic nuclear complexes with 1,280 combat packages—nuclear warheads, plus 500 nuclear charges for strategic bombers. During the seven years after the ratification of the Nuclear Weapons Limitation Treaty, until those weapons have not been withdrawn from the Ukraine territory and destroyed, the world not be able to feel safe without the responsibility for nuclear security being in the hands of one command.

After the meeting between B. Yeltsin and L. Kravchuk in Dagomys some experts are of the opinion that the conflict between Russia and the Ukraine, between the CIS united command and the Ukrainian military leadership is rather of diplomatic and ambitious nature and so should not lead to military confrontation. They think that sooner or later the Ukraine willingly or unwillingly would agree to a real centralized command and united control over the strategic forces, to the withdrawal of those forces from its territory. It is quite possible that the situation with the theater strategic weapons will be repeated. It is an open secret that the Ukraine gave its agreement to their withdrawal under the pressure of the leaders of biggest powers of the world—the United States, Great Britain, Germany, France...

Kiev, undoubtedly, has its reasons not to yield at once its nuclear positions. To the imperial claims of Russia, the Ukraine thinks, should be opposed the Ukrainian priorities of national security, not always coinciding with those of Moscow. Besides, some influential radical nationalist movements of the Ukraine are storing up fresh energy and they are ready to play not only the Crimea card, but also the "nuclear trumps." What is more, the economic difficulties experienced by the Ukraine could be quite easily explained by customary references to the "schemes of external enemy."

Unfortunately, we are witnessing not only the direct evidence of political struggle in the military field, but also the incompetence of those leaders who think that security can be achieved unilaterately, without observing the obligations taken both before the CIS and the world community.

To a certain degree it concerns the Treaty on Limitation of Conventional Arms. In accordance with this Treaty, the Ukraine, Belarus and Russia can have on their European territories only 13,150 tanks, 20,000 armor carriers, 13,175 artillery systems, 5,150 combat helicopters. Besides, there are limitations, regarding the center and the flanks, including the Leningrad, North Caucasian and Transcaucasian military districts. Over there the CIS countries can have no more than 1,850 tanks, 1,800 armor carriers and 2,775 artillery systems in the regular forces. The depots of the Leningrad and Odessa military districts should not have more than 1,000 tanks, 800 armor carriers, 900 artillery systems.

Today on the Ukrainian territory there are stationed 48 percent of all the tanks, 38 percent of combat armor carriers, 66 percent of artillery systems, 38 percent of combat aircraft and other military hardware which used to belong to the former USSR and was stationed in its European part. The lack of a strict mechanism of implementation of the Treaty on Limitation of Conventional Weapons not only creates an additional disbalance in the relations among the CIS countries, it increases tension in the entire world.

True, the Tashkent agreement on the quotas of combat equipment stationed in the European part of the CIS gives some hopes concerning the implementation of this Treaty. But the agreement should be ratified by the heads of state and realized.

Unfortunately, at the Dagomys meeting too the heads of two states, Russia's President Boris Yeltsin and the Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk, could not reach a compromise on the question of strategic nuclear missiles stationed in the Ukraine. Kiev continues to insist on the double control over those units which undoubtedly make questionable the guarantees of their safety.

At the same time, many observers think that the problem is not so acute as it seems to be and that there is a third force which would help to successfully solve this conflict between Russia and the Ukraine. Under the third force they have in mind the United States, since it is this country that helped Russia to withdraw from the Ukraine the theater nuclear weapons after the well-known demarche of Kravchuk. And now too, according to them, the United States will help. The Ukraine will be forced to take into consideration the opinion of the U.S. administration, propped by economic sanctions.

Meanwhile, during the Washington visit of Boris Yeltsin, Russia and the United States could sign the sensational agreement on a two third reduction of strategic offensive weapons by both countries. By 2003 the common stocks of strategic nuclear weapons of Russia and the United States will be cut from the present level of 21 thousand warheads to six, maximum seven thousand, leaving 3.5 thousand warheads to each side.

The reduction will be fulfilled by two stages: at the first stage the number of warheads will be reduced up to 3,800-4,250 for each side, herein intercontinental ballistic missiles [ICBM] will have 1,250 warheads, including 650 warheads for superheavy missiles such as SS-18, and underwater based missiles 2,250 warheads. By the end of the second stage there will be no heavy missiles with separate warheads, and the number of submarine missiles will be 1,750 for every side.

In other words, Russia thinks that there is no necessity whatever to keep its SS-18s which the Americans have always regarded as first-strike weapons. The United States on its part will get rid of MX missiles, manufactured under Reagan and called by him peace- keepers. Yeltsin said to Bush that Russia was going to discard SS-18s.

Russia's Defence Minister General of the Army Pavel Grachev said that this decision was not impulsive. It was preceded by a serious work of the both sides military experts. "I, as a military man,—said he—feel sorry about discarding such a mighty weapon as heavy ICBMs equipped with MIRVs. But such are todays realities and demands. As is known one such missile carries up to ten warheads, and in order to destroy it in the silo it is necessary only two or three warheads. As a result, one is tempted to destroy with a less number of warheads a greater number of warheads placed on ICBMs by the other side. In a crisis situation, being afraid of losing one's own potential, one may be tempted to protect the ICBMs from possible attack by striking first. After the reduction of this type of missiles, fulfilled both by Russia and the United States, the sides as ground-based strategic forces will use monoblock ICBMs."

True, not all the military experts are so optimistic as General Grachev. The former chief of General Staff, General of the Army Mikhail Moiseyev, told me that we had made an unjustified concession to the Americans by agreeing to reduce our 154 heavy missiles in exchange for the complex they not yet deployed. Moreover, SS-18s were our only weapon capable to withstand the Strategic Defence Initiative. Now the United States does not need spend money on a so expensive project, while Russia is deprived of the major deterrent it might have used in interstate relations.

Some other experts are of the opinion that the weapon reduction is to the advantage of the world and our country. The main thing now is not the missile military confrontation of the two superpowers. The biggest threat for Russia is coming not from the other states but from Russia itself, from the condition of its economy.

It is the problem that has become the most acute destabilizing factor. But such a subject is not the theme of our observations.

Thus, the fate of the Collective Security Treaty, as well as of other military agreements, in spite of restrained optimism of certain military leaders, remains undecided.

Nevertheless, the new Treaty gives an additional chance for achieving consensus in the military-political sphere among the CIS members. How the leaders of independent states will use this chance, the future will show. Everything will depend on their competence, foresight, good-will and especially economic situation on the territory called the CIS.

Nazarbayev Proposals Meet With Varied Reception

PM1809091592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Sep 92 Morning Edition pp 1,3

[Article by Emil Abramovich Pain, director of the Foreign Policy Association's and NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's Center for Economic Studies, candidate of historical sciences, and author of many books and articles on ethnic policy, and Andrey Susarov, a staffer at the center: "N. Nazarbayev's Proposals Offer Chance for CIS"]

[Text] On the eve of the meeting of the heads of state and government in Bishkek the President of Kazakhstan has put forward a set of proposals which, if adopted, would mark the creation in the CIS not simply of coordination structures but of management structures, too, which would essentially be confederative organs of power.

You need not be an in-depth analyst to realize that in spirit these proposals are not acceptable or desirable to all CIS members and there should be no doubt that a politician as sophisticated as N. Nazarbayev is aware of that. Rather it may be presumed that this initiative is a just a way of suggesting to Russia, its political circles, and its public another attempt at forming a confederation with a narrow range of members.

To some extent this is a repetition of the situation of fall 1991 when Russia had an opportunity to preserve the remnants of the Union by signing a treaty with a limited number of republics. Then the Russian leadership considered the Union without Ukraine impossible. This choice resulted in the birth of the CIS—a weak, sickly child, not a source of great joy to any of the parents.

Why are the republics of Central Asia and Kazakhstan so persistently seeking a path toward interstate integration, especially with Russia?

It is well known that these republics have always been the most consistent supporters of a unified Union and received independence not as a result of the victory of national liberation forces—it was, as it were, "dumped" on them according to the "residual principle" after being gained by the European and Transcaucasian republics. Today the rift with Russia is more painful economically there than in other republics. Take north Kazakhstan, for example. Its economy cannot survive a day without ties with the Urals and Siberia because it is just an extension of the Urals and Siberian economic complexes. The economic dependence of the majority of Central Asian republics on Russia is almost absolute right now although it is not only economic necessity but also political processes, especially in Tajikistan, which are prompting Central Asia toward rapprochement with Russia.

Tajikistan has really become the focal point of instability in Central Asia. The removal of President Nabiyev will hardly end its most bitter political struggle. It could even intensify if the common enemy's exit from the political stage undermined the precarious association of different parties, movements, clans, and ethnic communities forming the Islamic democratic opposition.

Recently interethnic relations in the republic have also become more acute and the appearance of a so-called "third force" on the political horizon is evidence of the possibility that new political groupings ready to fight for power with weapons will emerge all the time. Meanwhile, within the republic at the moment there are no forces capable not only of consolidating society and ensuring civil accord but of even guaranteeing the observance of a cease-fire in localized armed conflicts. It is no coincidence that under the Khorog agreement the function of separating the warring groupings in Tajikistan should have been assumed by Russian troops. True, the leaders of the Islamic-democratic bloc subsequently opposed the use of Russian troops but this was during Nabiyev's rule.

Now, however, the former opposition has come to power itself and has to think of forces capable of supporting it. In this sense the recent request by the new authorities in Tajikistan to a number of CIS states for extra military units to protect the Tajik-Afghan border is symptomatic. As for Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, they are consistent in their intention to rely on CIS troops for protection against the spread of the "Tajik disease" to their territory as well as against the restless Afghan neighbor. The leaders of those republics were first to support N. Nazarbayev's proposals.

Understandably, the Turkmen leadership's reaction to those proposals is cooler. This state does not have a border with Tajikistan, the political situation in the republic is stable, and the economy, based on the oil and gas complex, is less dependent on Russia. At the same time, Turkmenia has a great many links with other republics in the region, especially through its water management system, and if the level of their integration in the CIS increases, Turkmenia will be forced to follow its neighbors' example.

The attitude of other CIS members to N. Nazarbayev's proposals is largely determined by the correlation of two tendencies in their policy: economic pragmatism and national idealism.

The pragmatists are aware of the need for at least some degree of coordination of the Commonwealth states' activity in the economic and humanitarian spheres and military development. The idealists (as a rule, members of the opposition), who specialize in the defense of national sovereignty, want to limit the authorities' drift toward integration.

The pragmatists' position is now fairly strong in the power structures of the majority of republics, and it is no coincidence that agreement in principle was reached at the CIS diplomats' meeting in Minsk on the creation of the Economic Consultative and Coordination Council (whose functions will be defined at the Bishkek meeting).

At the same time, one should not exaggerate the intentions toward integration of even the most pragmatic politicians in the European and Transcaucasian republics of the CIS. For example, does the improvement in relations between L. Kravchuk and B. Yeltsin since the Dagomys meeting signify a change in Ukraine's approach to the CIS as an "instrument of civilized divorce"? Possibly the pragmatists in the Ukrainian leadership thought that this divorce was moving too quickly and not at all amicably and have tried merely to introduce some order into the proceedings. But even these modest attempts have been greeted by influential political forces in Ukraine as tantamount to a betrayal of national interests.

Moldova objectively needs the development of integration within the CIS, both for economic reasons and to resolve the problems of the Dniester region, but the pan-Romanian opposition in Moldova will not allow the level of its involvement in the CIS to be raised under any circumstances.

It is a different situation in the Republic of Belarus. There the political obstacles to that state's further rapprochement with Russia and other republics are comparatively weak.

Of the Transcaucasian states, Armenia retains the firmest links with the CIS—it is party to the military pact. But it is the scant benefit of that union, in the Armenian leadership's opinion, which will deter Armenia from any steps perceived as raising the level of participation in the collective organs of the CIS. As for Azerbaijan, the very fact of a military union of Commonwealth states with Armenia could paralyze its possible rapprochement with the CIS for a long time to come.

Georgia, as we know, is not a member of the Commonwealth and in present conditions is unlikely to formally join this organization.

Thus, the development of the processes of integration in the CIS to the level of creating some united institutions of power of a confederative type in present conditions would mean creating a political bloc involving Russia, Belarus, and the Central Asian states. How far does this prospect correspond to Russia's interests? The Central Asian republics were the weakest economic link of the former Union and over the past year their position has not improved, so that the economic expediency of a new union needs serious thought. At the same time, the geopolitical benefits of the development of the processes of integration with Turkestan are obvious and do not need to be demonstrated especially.

Russian public opinion will probably also be in favor of such a rapprochement today as it supports the strengthening of Russian links with the other republics of the former Union. Nostalgia for the USSR is becoming increasingly strong in the Russian mass consciousness and thus takes a benevolent view of political decisions that are even remotely suggestive of the rebirth of their great motherland and resolutely reject all territorial concessions. In an attempt to follow that very mood, B. Yeltsin turned down the visit to Japan, so why should he for the same reason not accept N. Nazarbayev's suggestion? It is not impossible that even without public prompting the Russian president is not averse to revising the Belovezhskaya Forest agreements because their results were far more modest than he could have expected.

Evidence of Russia's readiness to adopt in principle the concept of rapprochement with Turkestan and Belarus without thereby aggravating relations with other CIS members can be seen in the recent speech in Minsk by A. Kozyrev, who proposed a formula for a variety of mechanisms of affiliation to the Commonwealth permitting different degrees of integration by states in the CIS framework.

We do not claim that a new political bloc is going to be formed in Bishkek, but Russia's new stance toward the states of nearby foreign parts could take shape there.

Conference Representatives Favor Energy Network

OW1809213092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian governmental vice-premier Viktor Chernomyrdin on Friday chaired a conference of representatives of the fuel and energy complex (TEK) from several republics who are affiliated to the CIS Member States' Electro-Energy Council.

INTERFAX was informed that during the course of the conference, which was attended by energy sector chiefs from Russia, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Moldova, energy supplies to the republics for autumn and winter 1992-1993 were discussed. Remarkably, the conference took place a day after the Russian government had approved measures to guarantee Russian economy sectors and the Russian nation fuel, heating and electricity supplies for the coming autumn and winter.

The republics' representatives at the conference were in favour of maintaining a unified energy supply network and a continuation of joint efforts to guarantee electricity and energy supplies to industry and the populations of the CIS member states.

Agricultural Developments for 13-19 Sep

LD2009064192

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments monitored from CIS and Baltic sources from 13 to 19 September. Items are listed in chronological order by republic. Sourcelines and processing indicators follow each item.

KAZAKHSTAN

The Kurgaldzhinskiy Rayon of Akmolinskaya Oblast is leading in the delivery of grain to the state. A total of 55,000 tonnes of bread grain has been brought to the delivery centers. To date, Akmolinskaya Oblast has sold 200,000 tonnes of grain to the states. [Summary—Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 13 Sep 92]

The harvest is nearly over in West Kazakhstan Oblast. This year saw a good yield of spring and winter crops. The area covered 1.393 million hectares. An average yield of just over 11 quintals per hectare was obtained. The state order of 360,000 tonnes of grain will be fulfilled. [Summary—Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Sep 92]

In Kazakhstan bread grain has been cut on 12.3 million hectares, which is 58 percent of the sown area; 11.2 million tonnes of grain has been threshed. Between 7 and 14 September almost 5 million hectares were cut and nearly 4 million tonnes of grain were threshed in the northern and central regions of the republic. [Summary—Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0730 GMT 18 Sep 92]

KYRGYZSTAN

The grain harvest is coming to a close. Grain and cereal crops have been harvested to date from over 430,00 hectares—almost 90 percent of the total. The yield is 25 quintals [q] per hectare [ha], five more than last year. The yield in Naryn Oblast is 30 q/ha. Ploughing of fallow land is also under way, but is slow due to fuel shortages. Sowing of winter crops is to be carried out on an area of 300,000 ha. [Summary—Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1600 GMT 17 Sep 92]

RUSSIA

The harvest in Bashkiria is almost complete. The grain is on the threshing floors, but it is not reaching the state warehouses. Today vast warehouses are running idle, burning up electricity and ocupying thousands of people. According to preliminary figures, approximately 5 million tonnes of grain will be gathered. But only 600,00 tonnes have been handed over our of the 1.3 million tonnes planned, even though prices, because of state subsidies, are considerably higher here than in other regions of Russia. [Text—Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMT 14 Sep 92]

ITAR-TASS reports that 85 percent of grain has been harvested to date in Udmurtia. The state order for the sale of grain to the state has been filled. Potatoes have been harvested on half of the plantations in Udmurtia. [Summary—Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 15 Sep 92]

ITAR-TASS reports that one third of the grain has been harvested in Kurgan Oblast, and the first 100,000 tonnes of grain are ready for delivery. [Summary—Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 15 Sep 92]

The sowing of winter crops has been completed in Altay Kray. In complex weather conditions, rye has been successfully sown on 170,000 ha. All this acreage has been sown with new varieties. [passage omitted] Harvesting work has also been completed throughout the kray. ITAR-TASS reports that 13 quintals of grain have been obtained from each threshed hectare. [Excerpts—Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 17 Sep 92]

In Chelyabinsk Oblast, cereals have been cut in half of the area allocated to them. One third of them have been threshed. CHELYABINSKIY RABOCKIY gives the figure for the state order of grain from the oblast as 660,000 tonnes. Ulyanovsk Oblast has fulfilled the order for the supply of grain to state granaries: 560,000 tonnes have been delivered to the elevators. The average yield in 23 q/ha. [Summary—Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMt 18 Sep 92]

Due to heavy rains it has been impossible to begin large-scale harvesting in Kuzbass. Over 1 million tonnes of grain have yet to be gathered. Machines stick in the mud on the potato plantations, where up to 250 quintals of potatoes per hectare have ripened. Representataivs of the Moscow government now on a visit to Kuzbass have promised to send some transport to help gather potatoes which will then be supplied to the capital. [Text—Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMT 19 Sep 92]

UKRAINE

Chernigov Oblast has joined the oblasts which fulfilled the state order on grain sales: 335,000 tonnes of grain have been delivered to the procurement centers. This exceeds last year's figures by over 40,000 tonnes. [Text—Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 18 Sep 92]

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 19 Sep

LD1909055692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0527 GMT 19 Sep 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 19 TASS—A reaction to the Russian president's decree "on a state regulation of the prices of individual types of energy resources", which took effect on Friday, is the central topic in today's press.

"An administrative raising of the prices of energy resources, sealed by the presidential decree and by a government resolution, is undoubtedly an enforced measure," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (The Independent Newspaper) writes in this connection.

"It is easy to imagine a reaction to the economic consequences of such a step on the part of the majority of Russia's population who continuously grow poor, as well as on the part of political forces which are inclined to express, as soon as an opportunity arises, their 'social concern' so as to raise their own popularity rating," the newspaper writes.

"The step taken by the government will bear heavily on the financial position of both people in Russia and in other republics of the former Soviet Union," PRAVDA maintains, emphasising that all that "would complicate Russia's relations with the former Union republics".

In connection with firing by a helicopter without identification marks on the passenger motorboat Kameta-44 of the Sochi seaport, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA expresses a supposition that the killer helicopter possibly had a double. A signed article reports that a nega news agency correspondent in Sukhumi on Friday refuted the Russian Defence Ministry information that the fire on the Kometa motorboat was conducted by colonel of the Georgian Air Force Jim Maisuradze.

For its part, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star), in corroboration of the Defence Ministry report, carries a tape-recording of decoded radio messages between the helicopter pilot and the ground service of the Russian Air Force on the eve of the piratic attack on the motorboat, in which one passenger was killed and eleven wounded.

Separatism, which is tearing Russia asunder from the inside, is the main danger to the country for the present, Valeriy Zorkin, chairman of the Constitutional Court, told KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in an interview published today. Zorkin points out that he does not associate this phenomenon exclusively with the nationalities problem: Along with republics such as Tatarstan, Bashkortostan or Yakutiya-Sakha, regions with a traditionally Russian population in Siberia and the Far East also manifest trends towards separatism. Emphasising the danger of separatism within the Russian Federation, Zorkin said: "We should not allow Russia to turn into yet another CIS, and Yeltsin should not share the lot of Gorbachev".

"We act in unison with the Russian Federation. It is precisely the Russian Government that is the general holder of licences," Kliment Ivanov, the parliament chief of the republic of Sakha (Yakutiya), told PRAVDA.

In connection with the conclusion of a number of agreements with foreign firms, specifically with the De Beers Company which is reckoned the world's monopolist in the sale of diamonds, the Yakutian parliament speaker said: "The opposition believes that diamonds should not be sold wholesale, into one hands, and at prices that are unknown to the northerners. I think we are sure to be able to set up the processing of diamonds and the manufacture of instruments and other articles from them".

"The central bank should be an independent agency," Sergey Ignatyev, deputy chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, told NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. Ignatiyev pointed out that the bank's management recently made two erroneous decisions: on mutual offsets of debits and credits between enterprises and on the conclusion of a treaty with the National Bank of Ukraine.

As a result of the practice of mutual offsets, "there would be a huge influx of money ranging, in my estimates, between about 500,000 million to 1,000,000 million roubles. The economy will react to that by a sharp increase in the rate of inflation". There is no doubt that there should be concertedness of action between the Central Bank and the government and it is essential to ensure it as soon as possible, Ignatyev said.

"The hour of realisation has struck, the time of responsibility and unification of all national-state forces and historic reconciliation between the 'whites' and 'reds' has come" Gennadiy Zyuganov points out in a signed article in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA.

Giving his estimate of the state of affairs in the country, the writer of the article emphasises an exceptionally crucial nature of the moment. "There still exists a realistic opportunity for everyone to make two or three steps towards one another. This chance should not be missed," Zyuganov points out.

"I think the president can and must establish a normal dialogue with all parties and movements, and not cater for the ambitions of the broken-up and bankrupt 'Democratic Russia' Movement. It is also within his power to repeal the decrees concerning the Communist Party, thereby saving his prestige and reducing tension in society", Zyuganov writes.

Ministry Satisfied With French Referendum Results

LD2109164192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1520 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, 21 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—"The positive results of the referendum held in France on the fate of the Maastricht Treaty were met in Moscow with satisfaction," reads a statement circulated here today by a representative of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "The French "yes" will serve as a good guide for progress in the construction of European union. The European Community will acquire the opportunity to become established in its leading role in the process of the gradual development of new interrelations on the continent.

"At the same time, we believe that the further advancement of the Community along the path of economic and political integration would be incomplete without the proper development of cooperation and partnership with other democratic states of the continent, among which we include Russia. The revival of fears about the union acquiring the features of a so-called "European [word indistinct]" would narrow the opportunities of the new Europe as one of the geopolitical centers of the world. For its part, Russia is ready to work on ensuring that potential for such fears is ruled out.

"It is from this angle that we view the preparations for a wide-scale agreement between Russia and the European Community, which should take full account of the new realities of European union.

"Finally, the onward development of European integration should also have a positive effect on the processes of the formal establishment of new relations within the CIS."

Yeltsin, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Relations

LD2109162992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1440 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin received U.S. Ambassador Strauss in the Kremlin today. The ambassador informed Boris Yeltsin about the course of the U.S. election campaign and expressed the conviction that no matter what the outcome of the elections, the U.S. Administration will continue the policy of all-around support for the reforms in Russia and of expanding friendly, partnership ties. Ambassador Strauss stressed in particular the positive role which a law on support for freedom [as heard] could play for the course of the democratic processes in Russia.

The issue of Russian-Japanese relations was also touched on during the meeting. Strauss told President Yeltsin that having analyzed the situation which led to the postponement of Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan the U.S. Administration accepted the reason for the visit's postponement with understanding.

Yeltsin To Visit United Kingdom 9-10 Nov

LD2109145292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1502 GMT 21 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Rostislav Gertsev and Sergey Skripnikov]

[Text) Moscow September 21 TASS— "I think it is necessary to confirm that an agreement has been reached that the first-ever visit of the Russian president to Great Britain will take place from November 9-10 this year," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Alexander Rozanov, told a briefing here today.

The spokesman expressed regret that the postponement of the Russian president's visit to Japan was interpreted by some mass media outlets as a signal to speculate on the Russian leadership's programme for foreign contacts.

At present, the diplomat said, the foreign ministries of Russia and Britain are working to finalize the text of a Russo-British treaty of principles of mutual relations, which is to reflect the new quality of bilateral relations, and "their transition from mutual suspiciousness and confrontation to trust and partnership".

The Russian foreign minister will visit Great Britain in the middle of October to finalize preparations for the London summit.

Foreign Ministry Statement on FRY UN Membership

LD2109162692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1442 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow, 21 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry information and press department today issued a statement on Russia's stance regarding participation by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) in the United Nations in the light of the resolution passed by the Security Council on 19 September. The resolution refers to "The end of the existence of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" and recommends that the General Assembly rule that the FRY reapply for UN membership, and that in the meantime it should not take part in the General Assembly. According to the resolution, this issue will be reexamined before the end of the main part of the 47th UN General Assembly. The resolution reflects a consensus among the world community that none of the states formed within the former SFRY can claim automatic continuation of its UN membership, and that they should all enter the organization as new members. This naturally applies also to the FRY.

The statement says that Russia shares this approach, on the basis of its consistent support for admission of all these states to the United Nations. We will support the corresponding application to the United Nations by the FRY. "It has to be said that we would prefer not to resort to such a measure as temporary nonparticipation of the FRY in the United Nations," the Russian Foreign Ministry statement continues. "We believe this step to be a compromise that allows the removal of groundless demands that the FRY be formally or de facto excluded from the United Nations. "The whole point of the resolution is that it does not isolate or exclude the FRY at the United Nations, and there is an understanding in the Security Council of the particular consequences that it will have on the republic's status within the (UN) organization.

The resolution envisages merely suspending it from the General Assembly and its bodies. It will not affect either way participation by the FRY in the Security Council or other UN bodies. The FRY will continue to publish documents at the United Nations, the "Yugoslavia" nameplate will remain in the General Assembly hall, and the FRY mission to the United Nations will continue to function. "The compromise achieved at the Security Council permits continuation of the talks in New York and Geneva (as part of the international conference on Yugoslavia), and of Belgrade's cooperation with UN forces.

"We expect that this ruling will be properly received by the leadership and people of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In order to make its full contribution to resolving the world's problems, the FRY should do all it can for a most rapid end to the conflict. We express our hope that the government of Milan Panic, and the other parties involved, will vigorously continue with specific steps toward this aim."

Abkhazian Situation Worries Foreign Ministry

LD2109153392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1246 GMT 21 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Rostislav Gertsev and Sergey Skripnikov]

[Text] Moscow September 21 TASS—The Russian leadership is deeply concerned over the implementation of the agreement on Abkhazian settlement reached in Moscow on September 3, according to a statement of the Russian Foreign Ministry quoted by spokesman Aleksandr Rozanov on Monday.

The conflicting sides do not observe the key provisions of the agreement, first and foremost, an unconditional ceasefire. It is inadmissible to allege that military and technical aspects of the Moscow agreements allow to use force for the solution of the conflict, according to the statement.

The relocation of Georgian troops mentioned by the agreement envisages a reduction of Georgian Armed Forces in the zone of conflict to the minimal level necessary for protecting railways and other major objects. It was agreed in Moscow that the relocation includes the withdrawal of heavy Georgian military hardware, first and foremost from Sukhumi, according to the statement.

Russia is also concerned that volunteer armed units which unlawfuly penetrated into the zone of conflict are not disarmed, disbanded and withdrawn from Abkhazia as envisaged by the Moscow agreements, the spokesman said.

The Russian side did and will do everything possible to settle the conflict in Abkhazia by peaceful means and according to the Moscow agreements. This line is supported by the United Nations and the CSCE. We call on the conflicting sides to show good will and provide for the implementation of the Moscow agreements in order to stop the bloodshed and human rights violations in Abkhazia, he added.

Political and military leaders who signed the agreements bear responsibility for strict compliance with their commitments, the statement stressed.

Georgian, Russian Defense Ministers Meet

LD2009162192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1603 GMT 20 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kasoyev]

[Text] Tbilisi September 20 TASS—The Georgian and Russian Defence Ministers—Tengiz Kitovani and Pavel Grachev—met in Sochi, ITAR-TASS learned from official sources. According to the press centre of the Georgian State Council, the results and prospects for the work of the commission for control and inspection in the conflict zone were discussed during the meeting. The commission had been formed under arrangements reached at the tripartite negotiations between leaders of Russia, Georgia and Abkhazia in Moscow on September 3.

Team Arrives in Washington for IMF Talks

LD1909205592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2033 GMT 19 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Igor Ignatyev]

[Text] Washington September 20 TASS—The delegation from the Russian Federation headed by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin arrived here on Saturday [19 September] to attend the annual session of the boards of executive directors of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Shokhin was recently appointed as executive director from Russia in these two international financial organisations.

During the session that opens on September 22, the boards of executive directors of the IMF and the World Bank will sum up the results of their activity in the past fiscal year. The Russian delegation has as its task to step up negotiations with the IMF and the World Bank on the agreements work to prepare which is nearing completion. Along the IMF line, this is first and foremost an agreement on a reserve credit talks on which will be held in September-October. Another major issue is to extend the six billion dollar credit to Russia for the rouble stabilisation fund.

However, it is a long way to go before these negotiations are completed, Shokhin said in an ITAR-TASS interview. At point is primarily to make an accurate enough forecast of the socio-economic development of Russia in 1993.

Talks with the IMF on this issue are strongly tied to the continued discussion by seven leading industrialised states and the Paris Club of the former USSR's debts. Calculations of Russia's balance of payments for 1993 are now being made jointly with the IMF. "The position of the Paris Club and the finance ministers of the seven-nation group will largely be contingent on this IMF forecast. They will choose the scenario for deferring repayments of our foreign debt relying on it," Shokhin said.

Moscow To Seek Rescheduling of Foreign Debt

OW2009204292 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1745 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Foreign Economic Relations Minister P. Aven and Aleksey Mozhin, government adviser on relations with international financial organizations, by unidentifed correspondents; place and date not given; from the "INTERFAX Business Report"; following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The finance ministers of the G-7 group of countries, who met in Washington on Saturday [19 September], are expected at their next round of talks with Russia to consider a number of new proposals, including the restructuring of the country's foreign debt and the reviewing of the Memorandum on Collective Responsibility for the Foreign Debt. This was reported by the Russian Minister of Foreign Economic Relations, Mr. P. Aven, and Government Advisor on Relations with International Financial Organizations, Mr. Aleksey Mozhin, in an exclusive interview with INTERFAX.

Russia's debt is the "fundamental problem in relations with the West", said Mr. Aven last week. He also made the point that at present President Boris Yeltsin himself was personally taking part in the talks on the debts of the former Soviet Union.

At the talks in the United States, Mr. Aven said, Russia will make "specific proposals" and offer "alternative calculations" relating to the deferment of the debts. In his words, it would be a question of paying off the "absolute larger part of the debt" over the next 3-5 years. This year alone Russia should have paid its creditors some $20 bn. [billion] and next year it should pay more than $20 bn.

The basis for the signing of the agreement between Russia and the Paris Club, Mr. Aven pointed out, would a [as received] forecast of the balance of payments. He said that now it was important for the Russian government to reconcile its own estimates of Russia's balance of payments deficit with those of the IMF experts, which the Paris Club would rely on. At present the difference in these two estimates was almost $5 bn.

The minister also said the postponing of Boris Yeltsin's visit "had no effect on either the position of Japan at the foreign debt talks or trade relations between the two countries. At the same time he refuted reports that Russia had asked for $50 bn. from Japan in exchange for concessions on the territorial problem. [no close quotation marks as received]

Russia insists on rescheduling its foreign debt and reviewing the Memorandum on Collective Responsibility. Mr. A. Mozhin has announced that during the forthcoming talks in Washington Russia will first insist on the rescheduling of its foreign debt. This amounts to differing [as received] for several years the payment periods on part of the debt that is due over the next 3-5 years. Secondly, Russia wants a review of the Memorandum on Collective Responsibility for the foreign debt which was signed at the end of last year. This document establishes equal liability for the payment of the foreign debt of the former USSR and equal rights to the assets of the former USSR, including property held abroad.

During the first nine months of this year, Mr. Mozhin said, the government has come to the conclusion that the mechanism of collective responsibility "does not work". Russia is still the only country which has paid anything of its debts. No other republic has "paid a cent".

At the same time the existence of the Memorandum on Collective Reponsibility makes it impossible for Russia to hold talks with other countries on the return of their debts to the former Soviet Union.

An agreement with the Paris Club could be signed by October 15. According to P. Aven and A. Mozhin, there is considerable likelihood that Russia will in fact sign an agreement with the Paris Club on the rescheduling of its debt before October 15 this year. But it will come into force only after Russia has signed a full-scale agreement with the IMF, which according to Mr. Mozhin cannot be expected in the near future.

The IMF is at present concerned that Russia is in breach of the obligations it undertook for the second half of the year in respect of the size of its budget deficit, in respect of issuing credit and in respect of its balance of payments.

A. Mozhin has already said that credit emissions in Russia have already reached a critical level - 500 bn rubles in July and August alone. Under the terms of the agreement with the IMF these credit issues should not exceed 700 bn. rubles during the whole of the second half of 1992.

Moscow May Agree With G-7 on External Debt

OW1809194392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1804 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin is personally participating in negotiations over the external debt of the former Soviet Union. Russian Foreign Economic Ties Minister Peter Aven informed INTERFAX of this on the eve of a round of talks between G-7 Finance Ministers to be held September 19 in Washington. He emphasized that the external debt is now "the primary problem in relations with the West".

Mr. Aven expressed his certainty that Russia would be able to reach agreement with the G-7 on restructuring the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union. He said an agreement could be signed October 15.

At the talks in the United States, the Minister said, Russia will present "concrete proposals and number options" connected with postponing the debts. He said discussion would center around "the largest part of the debt", which is to be paid in the next 3-5 years. Russian was to pay some 20 million dollars to its creditors in this year alone, and over $20 million will be due next year.

The balance of payments forecast will serve as the center of an agreement between Russian and the G-7, according to Aven. He said it is important that the Russian Government's own estimates of the Russian balance of payments deficit agree with the information of IMF experts which will guide the G-7. The difference between the two estimates currently amounts to almost $5 million.

The Minister also said the postponement of Yeltsin's visit "was mentioned neither in the Japanese position during negotiations on the external debt nor in trade relations between the two countries". He denied reports that Russia asked Japan for $50 million in exchange for concessions in the territorial debate, emphasizing that "nothing of the kind had ever taken place".

Kozyrev Meets With Ukraine's Zlenko at UN

LD2109041392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0351 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] United Nations, 21 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—A.V. Kozyrev, Russian Federation foreign affairs minister, met with Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister A.M. Zlenko in New York on 20 September. The two exchanged opinions on international affairs and problems facing the 47th session of the UN General Assembly.

Having confirmed the need for a comprehensive implementation of the accords reached between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents in Dagomys and Yalta, the ministers gave special attention to preparations for the Russo-Ukrainian treaty on friendship, cooperation, and partnership and to agreements in the sphere of credits, finances, trade, and economy.

Kozyrev, Finnish Counterpart Discuss Cooperation

LD2109164492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0531 GMT 20 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] United Nations September 20 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev held talks with his Finnish counterpart, Paavo Vayrynen, on September 19 on board the plane on his way to New York to attend the 47th session of the U.N. General Assembly [UNGA].

The two ministers discussed prospects for cooperation in the Baltic and Arctic regions. Kozyrev explained Russia's position on the question of the establishment of an office of commissioner for human rights and the protection of national minorities at the Council of the Baltic sea states.

As regards bilateral relations, the two ministers focused on matters aimed at developing economic cooperation and at giving greater transparency to the Russian-Finnish border in the light of the implementation of the accords reached during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Finland.

Kozyrev Comments on UN Delegation's Tasks

LD2009093192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0838 GMT 20 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] United Nations September 20 TASS—The Russian delegation sees it as its task at the 47th session of the U.N. General Assembly to use this unique international forum for the further consolidation of the positions of Russia as a great power and as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who is heading the Russian delegation at the session, told ITAR-TASS on Saturday [19 September] upon his arrival in New York.

"We shall make efforts to strengthen cooperation with countries which share democratic values. Much attention will be devoted to contacts with countries which represent the so-called Third World," the minister said.

"In our view, this session of the General Assembly will be notable for businesslike efficiency," Kozyrev emphasised.

"It is for the first time that there is no confrontation of ideological systems. There arises a unique chance to begin to build a world which was envisioned during the establishment of the United Nations organisation but which was not built because of the cold war.

"To our delegation, a number of issues will have priority. The problem of human rights, in the first place," the Russian delegation leader said.

"We would like to avail ourselves of the session and U.N. mechanisms to draw attention to human rights campaigning in its new form, i.e. the protection of the rights of national minorities, those of the Russian and Russian-speaking population in the Baltics and in other former union republics, in particular.

"It will become a distinguishing feature of our delegation's activities to share the concerns of the world community but in the light of direct and specific interests of our own state".

Touching upon the Yugoslav crisis, Kozyrev expressed satisfaction with the resolution passed by the U.N. Security council on Saturday.

According to the document, the union Republic of Yugoslavia may not automatically continue the membership of the former Yugoslavia at the United Nations. The resolution recommends that the U.N. General Assembly pass a decision that the new Yugoslavia should file an application for U.N. membership and that it shall not participate in the General Assembly proceedings.

"I regard this approach as the right one," the Russian delegation leader emphasised. "This enables a Yugoslav delegations to engage in a certain participation in the U.N. work. Thereby, the contact between Yugoslav and U.N. leaders will not be interrupted.

"This will enable Milan Panic to implement his peaceful intentions. This is an example of realistic cooperation at the United Nations and the prevention of extremes. At the same time this is an example of positive, constructive and at the same time sufficiently firm position of Russia's diplomacy. I think this is not a bad beginning for the session," Kozyrev said.

Views UN General Assembly Session

LD1909094992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0801 GMT 19 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Mosscow, September 19 TASS—The present 47th session of the United Nations General Assembly is a forum of unprecedented opportunities, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has stated.

In response to an ITAR-TASS correspondent's question about the importance of the session and Russia's preparations for it, Kozyrev emphasised that the "session is of special importance because this is the first forum of the post-communist and post-confrontational era."

It is for the first time that there is no confrontation between ideological systems in the international arena, the minister pointed out. This gives a "unique chance to begin shaping a world, which will be more integrated than the one envisioned during the establishment of the United Nations organisation and which was not built because of the Cold War," he said.

At the same time Kozyrev believes that "there are no grounds for euphoria either" because lying ahead is a long transitional period connected with overcoming both diseases inherited from totalitarianism and new threats that have arisen on the ruins of totalitarianism. An aggressive nationalism is the main of the threats, he said.

Speaking about the tasks of U.N. activities, the Russian minister said the community of nations "must assume a new form of a human rights movement. Nowadays it is essential to turn this movement to face a new threat—that of violation of human rights on the basis of national intolerance, specifically, the persecution or infringement of the rights of Russian and Russian-speaking population throughout the former Soviet Union."

International institutions, the United Nations organisation and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) should join in tackling this task, Kozyrev said.

Kozyrev regards as the second major task the U.N. operations to keep peace or even restore peace in those cases when there is an aggressor that does not want to put up with a peace-making verdict."

"In such cases sanctions have to be applied and Russia is prepared for that," the minister pointed out. "Russia took part and will take part in this," he emphasised. There is a whole number of factors that make it possible to enhance the U.N. role for it "to have teeth, not just a moral-political voice." The U.N. needs teeth "to be able to bite when necessary," the Russian foreign minister stressed.

Of great importance, in the opinion of Kozyrev, is the form of a deputation of states that have emerged in place of the former socialist camp. Either these states will continue to realise the democratic potential or they will yield to a new plague, this time not the red or communist ideology but to the ideology of nationalism, xenophobia, a kind of 'brown plague'. "Then they will slide down to wars the type of the conflict we now witness in Yugoslavia," the minister maintains.

Kozyrev described as reassuring the fact that on the eve of the U.N. session, representatives of CIS countries at their meeting in Minsk had been able to exchange views on international matters including an agenda of the U.N. session. He declared for a continuation of such practice.

Russia is expected, firstly, "to reaffirm commitment to the policy of reforms, and, I think, we shall do that," Kozyrev said. "In this case, this is, I would say, of global importance," he emphasised.

"We are expected to contribute as a major state, as a great power to shape the international community's agenda which is referred to in a report of U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali," he added.

Kozyrev believes that in many respects the report was compiled "under the influence of proposals which were put forward by President Boris Yeltsin during his address at the U.N. security summit and then in some of our additional ideas and suggestions, which we referred to the United Nations in furtherance of the president's proposals, and under the impact of the processes and peace-making experience which is being gained throughout the CIS and the former Soviet Union+.

The U.N. Secretary-General, in particular, "highly appreciated our agreement on the Dniester region and on South Ossetia," Kozyrev emphasised.

The Russian minister drew attention to the problem of a Yugoslav settlement and the role of the United Nations in it. In his view, there is a substantial difference in the question of U.N. membership for Russia as the successor to the Soviet Union, and the new Yugoslavia.

"In our case, the USSR signboard at the United Nations was replaced by that of Russia. We did not enter the United Nations anew but acted as the state succeeding the Soviet Union both at the Security Council and at the United Nations," he said.

Both the international community and the republics of the former Soviet Union, Kozyrev said, were prepared to recognise Russia as the successor to the USSR. In the event of the new Yugoslavia, both the international community, which is evidenced by the applied sanctions, and the other republics with which Belgrade has beer in a direct armed confrontation are categorically against recognising the new Yugoslavia as the successor state.

But the situation changed when the Milan Panic government stated its determination to dissociate itself from the old aggressive course, condemned the conduct of war, the policy of ethnic purges and stated the recognition of the independence and sovereignty of republics that had emerged on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, i.e., "embarked on the road of realism and a peaceable policy." "We support the government of Milan Panic and its intentions and try to help it in the realisation of these intentions," the Russian minister pointed out.

"As the government's new course is implemented—and an evidence of that already appears—we, maybe, shall be the first to raise the question of a gradual lifting of the sanctions," he emphasised. Subsequently, the Russian minister said, the question of the entry of the new Yugoslavia into the United Nations organisation as a new state will be normally decided upon.

The statement by Milan Panic at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport about an intention to bring up for government's consideration the question of filing an application for new membership at the United Nations was described by Kozyrev as "a courageous statement by a politician of realistic trend who takes care of the national interests of his country."

"We shall do everything for the new Yugoslavia, which implements the policy declared by Milan Panic, to take a worthy place in both the U.N. and in the family of nations as a whole," the Russian minister stessed. He said he had a telephone conversation with Milan Panic on Thursday, with the Yugoslav premier reaffirming his intentions and desribing difficulties he encounters.

Asked how the work of the Russian foreign ministery is influenced by mounting criticism levelled at his ministry, Kozyrev said he is not against criticism because "the ministry works in a democratic environment and is not beyond criticism, as was the case in this country previously," although he believes that the ministry is "sometimes criticised rather harshly and often unfoundedly." "But this is a normal environment in which I would like to work and which I value very much," he said.

At the same time the minister pointed to the existence of another type of criticism—an unconstructive one—which leads the country to a disaster. "This is already the question not of criticism as such but of a political struggle and in this respect I do not visualise a basis for a compromise," he said.

The minister recognised as a "normal situation" the practice which is observed in all democratic countries when various political figures express their personal point of view, including that on issues of international politics. However, "when their point of view differs greatly from the stand of the president and the government, then such people resign," Kozyrev said.

Speaking in this connection about recent pronouncements by Mikhail Poltoranin, Russian minister for the press and information, as regards Russo-Japanese relations, Kozyrev made it clear that they were not an official stand of the government and that the Japanese side "may not send an official note to us because there are no grounds to regard the pronouncements as an official point of view."

Kozyrev said no major personnel changes are contemplated in the Russian foreign ministry for the near future.

Kozyrev Interviewed on Canceled Japan Trip

MK1909075092 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No 38, 20 Sep 92 (signed to press 15 Sep 92) pp 6-7

[Interview with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by Aleksey Pushkov under general headline "Russia and Japan Did Not Give Up Their Principles"; place and date not given: "There Was No Vote on the Cancellation of the Visit"]

[Text] [MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Andrey Vladimirovich, why was Yeltsin's visit to Japan not canceled earlier—for example, following Japanese Foreign Minister Watanabe's visit here? After all, in that case the affair would not have had such a scandalous tint to it....

[Kozyrev] First of all the situation had to be assessed, and certain things specified. The actual process of discussing the prevailing situation also took time. If you look at the timing of the cancellation of the visit in the light of this, it will look more reasonable. Another circumstance was that we did not and do not want to make a direct connection between the cancellation and Watanabe's visit, so that it would look as though his visit had failed. Particularly since the stance he occupied when he came to Moscow was no surprise to us. It is another matter that it has become clear that right now it is not proving possible to reach the degree of flexibility that we wanted from the Japanese side, and that they, undoubtedly, wanted from us.

There is also, for sure, the problem of the functioning of state institutions. After all, we are still only at the stage of creating a normal democratic state, and it is not yet operating as we would like. Our Supreme Soviet is not yet a parliament, the government has not yet taken possession of the apparat, and quite simply attempts are being made to ensure that this apparat is consolidated rather than reformed.

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Do you mean that the lack of coordination in the actions of various state structures has had an effect here?

[Kozyrev] Yes, both the lack of coordination and the obvious differences of opinion on the eve of the visit. I would also say that unprofessional attempts were made by the apparat to interfere in foreign policy.

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Do you mean the president's apparatus?

[Kozyrev] But not his aides.

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] What was the last straw that made Yeltsin decide not to go to Tokyo? And was the decision made at the Security Council session or beforehand?

[Kozyrev] I would not like to comment on events at the Security Council, as this would be unethical of me. I will merely say that there was no formal vote on this question anywhere. To speak in broader terms, there were several viewpoints on the problem. One of them was that all of this is completely unnecessary, the islands should be ours, which they are, the troops should remain where they are, and the fewer contacts we have with Japan the better. This is the old stance; it extends to our relations with the United States, too, and reflects a desire to retain obstacles in the path of friendly relations with democratic states and hinder the elimination of the enemy image.

We also find ourselves running up against political primitivism, oversimplification to the extent of childishness. After all, it is simplest to say that Japan cannot ensure Yeltsin's security, although it is obvious that this is not true. Of course, there was a problem here, but it was entirely surmountable. Nevertheless, there exists a primitive desire to exploit this problem and resolve everything at once through this attempt.

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] What is your personal reaction to the decision that was made?

[Kozyrev] I am glad that major political logic prevailed in the end. If we cannot reach the heights, the political level, that we set ourselves, that is, make the visit a real turning point in relations with Japan, then, to put it in sporting terms, it is better to simply postpone the jump, train a bit longer, and limber up, rather than lower the bar.

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Does this mean that during the final phase, having come to the conclusion that the visit will not bear the necessary fruit, you yourself were inclined to believe that it was inexpedient?

[Kozyrev] Yes, I too came to this conclusion.

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] So you did not oppose the decision that was adopted?

[Kozyrev] In principle, I am still in favor of Yeltsin going to Japan and all the questions that divide us being resolved. But in this instance, I came to the conclusion that we are simply not ready to make the visit what it should be. You know, for me, every presidential visit is worth its weight in gold. It is the main and most effective weapon in our diplomatic arsenal, particularly at a time when Russia is economically weak and we have no economic trump card in our foreign policy. So we have to value top-level visits very highly, and each one should be an epoch-making event, as we used to say.

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Did you come up against any external pressure during the preparation for the visit? Many commentators are now placing the Foreign Ministry and the Security Council in opposition to one another, claiming that the Security Council has managed to sustain a victory over you, and that the conservatives have taken the upper hand over the democrats.

[Kozyrev] Rumors like this are part of the apparat's revenge, they are part of the apparat's methods. I can well imagine how such things are propelled into the press and into public opinion. Those who are usually ranked among the democratic leadership do not use such fighting methods; we are not accustomed to these methods. But for the apparatus section, it is the air they breathe, the air of the old party corridors where these very methods were practiced. After all, there were never, or virtually never, any open political differences of opinion there. It is characteristic of these people to interpret everything in apparat terms: Who was scheming against whom, who dropped whom in it, and so on.

Incidentally, the battle is going on partly in this field. For instance, the battle to get information to the president, the battle for his time. I too now have permanent access. But for me internal contacts with the president are far more important. Whenever I have had to report on anything urgent, there has never been a time when he did not receive me and hear me out. But people with the apparat mind set see it differently: Once you have permanent access, that means that you can just come and see him, and even if you have nothing significant to say, you can say something about a partner, or resolve a completely different task.

It is obvious to me that they want to upset my equanimity psychologically. But this is not working, and it will not work, because, working in the Foreign Ministry, I have become hardened to it and gotten accustomed to all this "whispering." The same thing is happening to Gaydar and Burbulis. Rumors are constantly circulating, for example that Burbulis has lost the president's confidence, and that Gaydar might resign any day. The real point of this is to destabilize the apparatus.

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] Do you not think that now that the visit has been canceled, the internal political conditions for resolving the problem of the islands and therefore concluding a peace treaty with Japan will become even more difficult?

[Kozyrev] The fact that we were not able to reach the right level now is undoubtedly a consequence of being at this particular stage in the reforms. And there is no doubt about the fact that the Japanese will not give up raising the issue of the territorial problem. But they have now changed from their previous "everything at once" option to the "not everything, and not at once" option. And it seems to me that we too have overcome our old "nothing, ever" option. In our society what is being talked about more now is how to resolve the problem, and the idea of the joint ownership of the islands is being put forward.

Of course attempts will now be made to exploit the prevailing situation. Anti-Japanese hysteria is already being whipped up, there is rabid-patriotic flag-waving going on, and people are saying, we have them, we have put the samurai in their place! However, to my mind, a real patriot can only regret that we were unable to establish normal relations with Japan right now.

Incidentally, the thesis on the president's security is also being exploited to specific political ends. Some people do not like the original image of the president standing on a tank and defending the "White House" at all. And, on the pretext of super-concern for his safety, they very much want to create a different image for him, the image of a president who is not even capable of doing what Gorbachev did—going to Japan. After all, nothing has changed there since then as regards security.

But there is a positive element in what happened. Of course it would have been better not to have done this so dramatically. But nevertheless, attention has once again been paid to this problem. And once again we have the opportunity to reflect on how to get out of the impasse in relations with Japan. I hope that this will stimulate discussion in Japan too. Everyone has assured themselves that a frontal attack will not do, and that we need a real serious policy. So that we can say: Every cloud has a silver lining.

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] What do you intend to do now?

[Kozyrev] I am to meet Watanabe at the next UN General Assembly session in New York. We will try and coordinate a program for further work, and discuss possible concrete steps. It is possible that we will agree on the creation of working groups. We definitely need to channel events into a positive direction.

[MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI] So you do not see what has happened as a defeat for your diplomacy?

[Kozyrev] No, I see the cancellation of the visit as another indicator of the difficulties standing on the path of resolving the problem. Both our Foreign Ministry and the Japanese Foreign Ministry have done everything they could. If a diplomatic shortcoming had been uncovered, then I would have felt particularly to blame. But a political decision was adopted, and this is a completely different matter.

Japan Envoy Asserts Relations Not at Impasse

OW1809171692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 18 Sep 92

["Exclusive" interview with Japanese Ambassador to Russia Sumio Edamura by unidentified correspondent; place, date not given; reported by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, S. Ivanov, and I. Porshnev; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Corr.: In your opinion, what sort of outlook is there for the development of multilateral relations, including economic relations between Japan and Russia? Are relations threatened by stagnation in light of recent events?

AMBASSADOR: Relations between Japan and the former Soviet Union, most of all economic relations, were at a relatively low level, if one takes into account their potential. The main reason for this was that with a totalitarian regime economic relations were built on a strictly planned centralized system.

Now, due to our common democratic values, our country is participating in the common effort by the international community to help the new Russia.

Japanese cooperation with the new Russia, taking final leave of the old regime, could develop swiftly. The farewell with the past signalled the establishment of relations with Japan and other members of the "big seven" and should be based upon three main principles:

- a democratic domestic policy

- the establishment of a market economy

- the introduction of a foreign policy on the basis of the principles of legality and justice.

If Mr. Yeltsin's visit to Japan had taken place, he would have demonstrated to the entire world that Russia has achieved progress in striving for these three principles or has decisively set about to do so. The Japanese side was planning to greet the Russian president warmly and we deeply regret that such a good chance was wasted.

However, we do not think that since the visit was delayed Japanese-Russian relations have come to an impasse. Our country and its people understand that your country is going through a very difficult period. We hope that Russia will move forward to reach the above mentioned principles and Japan is prepared to continue to develop bilateral relations.

Q: What could you say about official contacts aimed at continuing preparations for President Yeltsin's visit to your country?

A: During a recent conversation with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, the idea of a possible meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe was proposed. This meeting could happen in New York during the U.N. general assembly session which started work this past Tuesday. I hope that this will become a new step in the further improvement of our relations.

Q: To what degree does Japanese public opinion influence your country's government's position on issues which concern Russia?

A: In Japan there is no hysteria about the territorial problem. Japanese society formed a general opinion about the northern territories long ago and now people are waiting to see if the new Russia will observe international treaties on the principles of legality and justice, if Russia will show sincerity in settling unsolved questions.

In Japan there is an established system of parliamentary democracy and parliament controls the government's activities. When taking such decisions, the government cannot ignore the opinion of parliamentarians, that is the people, as well as the opinion of the mass media.

Our people well understand the necessity of showing support for Russia during the reform period and approve the actions of your government in this plan. At the same time, the people are attentively trying to determine whether it is worth it to continue support.

From the moment I arrived in Russia I hoped that Japan and your country would establish a partnership which would be based on such common values as legality and justice.

A well-meaning press is a fundamental part of such a society. However in recent months I have noticed that inaccurate information on Japan is being circulated here.

In particular, reports of the instability of the current Japanese government are far-fetched since at least a year remains before the next elections, which is a sufficiently long period of time.

The theory that the territorial problem is being used by some forces in the political game, and that hysteria about this question reigns in Japan is inaccurate.

I sincerely hope that these and other announcements by the press did not have a negative influence on the decision to postpone the visit. In certain circles in Japan there is a version that said this was intentional information manipulation in order to put the responsibility for the delay on the Japanese side. I, however, am convinced that this could not be possible in the new Russia, which is free of totalitarianism.

It is most important that the mass media be accurate and responsible in supplying news in order to stem any possible movement backwards. This is necessary in order to show that Russia is a democratic state which shares common values with the world community.

This is important for the development of our bilateral relations.

Further on Interview

OW2109160592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 21 Sep 92

["Exclusive" interview with Japanese Ambassador to Russia Sumio Edamura by unidentified correspondent; place, date not given; reported by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, S. Ivanov, and I. Porshnev; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] DP [Diplomatic Panorama] is publishing an exclusive interview given to its correspondent by the Japanese Ambassador to Russia Mr. Sumio Edamura in connection with the postponement of President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan.

DP: Is there a more or less a common outlook in prominent business circles in Japan on the prospects for cooperation with Russia in view of the present circumstances?

AMBASSADOR: The Japanese business circles clearly realize that Russia has great natural resources, that it has amassed extensive scientific and technical potential, that it has well-trained engineers and technicians and capable workers.

Moreover, our businessmen take into account the fact that Russia is a close neighbor of Japan. This means that Japanese businessmen realize the great potential of cooperation with Russia. However such cooperation can become promising only when the main free-market mechanisms are used, when Russia democratizes internal policy and when its foreign policy is followed on the basis of law and justice.

It should be taken into account that the present state of Russia's economy can be characterized as confusion which accompanies the transition to free market. Competent economic circles in our country hope that Russia will be able to pass this period as quickly as possible and create favorable conditions for economic cooperation.

The government of Japan has taken certain steps to stimulate our cooperation, since it realizes well the importance of the participation of private enterprise in relations between our countries. For instance, since last autumn the Japanese authorities have been granting investment insurance to the enterprises which invest money in Russia. Fifteen projects for investing Japanese capital in the Russian economy are being implemented now with the use of such credits.

It is noteworthy that to attract investment it's necessary to have a well-developed infrastructure: transport, roads, communications, port facilities, and the like. An enormous role is played by the communication networks which are not developed well enough in Russia for the time being.

Now there are endeavors to set up a joint Japanese-Russian venture in the Far East, "Vostok-Telecom", with the involvement of Japan's international telephone communications company. The venture is to build a ramified communication system with the help of satellites. Its founders will get credits from Japan's governmental export-import bank.

What presents a serious problem for Japanese businessmen is Russia's banking system which sometimes acts, I would say, unpredictably. There are proposals to set up special economic zones and other ideas. In my view, they can be closely studied by both sides.

DP: What would you like to single out in the development of bilateral relations in the light of the latest events?

AMBASSADOR: In the past few months I noticed that public opinion in Russia periodically received information concerning Japan that failed to be true to a certain extent. This relates in particular to the allegations that the Japanese insufficiently ensure security for the visiting leaders of foreign countries. I also negate the assertion that during his trip to Japan the head of a state had to flee to a basement in the face of student pickets. Besides, I view as incorrect the outlook that Japan doesn't invest money in Russia's economy or that Japanese aid to Russia is "inconsiderable". Nevertheless with the help of the Russian news media such "information" gets to high places.

Withdrawn Cuban Army Units Will Reorganize

LD1809154992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0948 GMT 18 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Sep—Units and subunits of the Russian training brigade, which is deployed in Cuba, will be reorganized on return to Russia. Their strength will be in line with the overall reduction in Russia's Armed Forces, Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, first deputy chief of the General Staff, told an ITAR- TASS correspondent today.

As already reported, agreement on the brigade's withdrawal, which has been in Cuba for 30 years, was reached by the official delegations of the two countries at the talks in Havana which ended recently. In accordance with the agreement, the last subunit of Russian troops is due to leave Cuba by the middle of 1993.

Moscow To Relinquish Cuban Listening Post

LD2009224992 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2010 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Commentary by Valentin Gorkayev]

[Text] Russian troops are to gradually leave Cuba by the middle of next year. This (?thing), unilaterally declared by Mikhail Gorbachev, has happened. The former Soviet military contingent will leave Cuba following a 30-year presence there. Although the decision follows talks between Russia and Cuba, the observance of formalities does not change the essence of the matter.

The contingent has accomplished its military task. The Russian military has trained enough specialists for Cuba; the Cubans were able to act on their own several years ago. The foreign military presence on Cuba is quite another matter. Should the situation deteriorate around Cuba, this could mean the involuntary involvement of the former Soviet Union in the crisis, and since the crisis could develop between Cuba and the United States—which is blockading the island—the Russian military presence on Cuba could leave a mark on the relationship between Washington and Moscow. Relationships have changed considerably; the Russian pullout was predetermined.

Russia is not only withdrawing its troops from Cuba, it is relinquishing the use of its listening facility at Lourdes—which monitors all telecommunication systems on the American east coast and tracks Caribbean basin and Atlantic ship movements. Naturally, this decision was welcomed by the United States. Only one thing is unclear: Why does the United States believe this will lead to the further isolation of the Castro regime? Interestingly, the Cubans are not linking the Russian military withdrawal with dismantling the American base in Guantanamo.

The world community is to resolve the problem of troop withdrawals from foreign territories—including from Cuba—and it is not solely because the Russian example is infectious. It is necessary if the world community wants to establish a new just order on the planet.

Yeltsin Decree on Relations With Taiwan

PM1809153192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Sep 92 First Edition p 5

[Decree of the President of the Russian Federation on Relations Between the Russian Federation and Taiwan signed by President B. Yeltsin and issued in the Kremlin, Moscow on 15 September]

[Text] 1. In relations with Taiwan the Russian Federation proceeds from the premise that there is only one China. The PRC Government is the only lawful government representing the whole of China. Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. The Russian Federation does not maintain official interstate relations with Taiwan.

Economic, scientific and technical, cultural, and other unofficial ties between Russia and Taiwan are carried out by individual citizens and nongovernmental organizations vested with the functions necessary for the legal, technical, and other support of these ties and the protection of Russian citizens' interests in Taiwan and are regulated by the corresponding Russian Federation legal acts.

All possible missions of Russian organizations in Taiwan and of Taiwan in Russia are nongovernmental institutions and cannot claim the status, competence, privileges, or benefits belonging to a state organ. Their legal status is defined by local legislation. Individuals in state service cannot be staffers of nongovernmental organizations and institutions carrying out ties with Taiwan.

The state symbols of Russia and the symbols of the "Republic of China" and title the "Republic of China" may not be used in Russo-Taiwanese contacts, agreements, and documents. The Taiwanese partners are not allowed to use the title on Russian territory. Possible variants are: "Taiwan, China" or "Taipei, China."

Consular departments of Russian Federation embassies in third countries and nongovernmental organizations in Moscow and Taipei will assist in completing travel documents for Russian citizens and organizations traveling to Taiwan and for Taiwanese residents traveling to Russia.

The observance of the provisions of this decree shall be monitored by the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, which shall be empowered to submit to the Russian Federation Government questions of suspending the activity of institutions created in breach of this decree's provisions irrespective of the date of their creation and adopting administrative measures against individuals who breach this decree's provisions.

2. Permanent missions of the Moscow-Taipei Coordination Commission shall not be opened until further notice.

The membership of the Russian side of the commission and the functions and date of opening of the missions shall be determined in coordination with the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry.

[Signed] Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

[Issued in] Moscow, the Kremlin, 15 September 1992

Decree No. 1072

Government Team Arrives in Taiwan for Talks

LD1809211292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1456 GMT 16 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Kutakhov]

[Text] Tokyo September 16 TASS—For the first time since 1949 a high ranking Russian Federation government delegation arrived today in Taiwan to discuss practical questions concerning the development of bilateral contacts in the spheres of economy, science and culture. During its six-day visit, the delegation headed by Oleg Lobov, chairman of experts' committee working under the president of Russia, will conduct negotiations with Taiwanese official representatives on the exchange of representations with unofficial status, the development of tourism and the establishment of air and sea links between Russia and Taiwan, the KYODO TSUSHIN news agency reported from Taipei.

A significant place during the talks will be devoted to questions of granting credits to Russia for construction of oil, timber and metal ore processing enterprises.

PRC's Li Peng Welcomes Planned Yeltsin Visit

LD1809151192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1348 GMT 18 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Grigory Arslanov and Andrey Kirillov]

[Text] Beijing September 18 TASS—China wishes to maintain normal and friendly relations with the Russian Federation, premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Li Peng, stated today during a meeting with Yuriy Boldyrev, head of the Control Department of the president's administration.

Big changes have taken place in China and Russia but this does not hinder the strengthening of friendship between our peoples and development of relations between the two states, noted the head of the Chinese Government.

"In December of this year Boris Yeltsin will visit China. We already met with him once. I welcome his state visit to our country," Li Peng stressed.

Yeltsin, Nazarbayev Discuss Ties, Ethnic Tensions

LD1909215792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1950 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] [No dateline as received] A working meeting between President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation, and President Nursultan Nazarbayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan was held in Moscow on 19 September. Issues of the further development of special relations between the two states in political, economic, and military fields, in accordance with the treaty on friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance signed between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan on 25 May 1992, were discussed at the meeting.

The presidents considered the course of the preparation for holding a session of the council of the CIS heads of state in Bishkek, planned for 9 October. They paid special attention to the necessity of guaranteeing all the conditions to ensure that the meeting in the Kyrgyz capital is productive and serves the further strengthening of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The leaders of Russia and Kazakhstan exchanged opinions on the state of affairs in Georgia, Abkhazia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan, and also on the joint steps that they intend to take with a view to putting an end to the conflicts between the nationalities in these regions.

The participants in the meeting also discussed the situation in Tajikistan and confirmed their firm intent to act in accordance with the treaty on collective security signed in Tashkent, having expressed the readiness to uphold the principles of the inviolability of the frontiers of the states which signed that treaty.

The meeting passed in an atmosphere of deep mutual understanding and support for each others' positions.

CIS Combat Units Controlling Tajik-Afghan Border

LD1909202392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1745 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Vladimir Gondusov and Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 19 Sep—The arrival of combat subunits from the countries of the Commonwealth has allowed the Gyandhza and Moscow frontier detachments to reinforce outposts and to tightly cover their sectors of the frontier, the press center of the operational group of the Central Asian frontier district told ITAR-TASS correspondents today.

Afghan frontier guards have reinforced their positions substantially at the same time as the Russians: they have deployed additional subunits and successfully carried out a series of operations to detain frontier violators both on this side and the other. All appeals by the Russian frontier troops are being met with understanding by the Afghan side. Recently, several meetings took place between the command of the Gyandzha frontier detachment and spokesmen of the subunit guarding the Afghan frontiers. The Afghan side stated it intended to observe the interstate frontier regime treaty between the USSR and the Kingdom of Afghanistan of 1958. An Afghan spokesman gave assurances that all citizens of Tajikistan illegally crossing the frontier will be detained and handed over to Russian frontier troops, and the inhabitants of Afghan kishlaks in the frontier zone have been informed of this.

The measures taken have forced the violators of the frontier to urgently seek a way out of the situation: some decided to make their way into Tajikistan fighting, others to give themselves up voluntarily to the authorities.

Thus, on 18 September, Russian frontier troops neutralized an armed group that was trying to breach the frontier—six automatic weapons, grenades, and ammunition were confiscated. This morning, 30 people came out of a Russian outpost and gave themselves up. They didn't have any weapons on them.

The mutual understanding between the Russian and Afghan frontier detachments is borne out by the fact that, during their meeting on 18 September, the Afghan side expressed profound concern over an incident which occurred on 15 September on the territory of the Khorog frontier detachment. A group of reinforcements was fired upon from the Afghan side on an adjacent sector of the road and three frontier guards were injured, one of them seriously.

The Afghan frontier command has given the guarantee that it will carry out a thorough investigation into the incident and will apply the toughest measures to those responsible, which, according to them, the population of the Afghan kishlaks near the frontier demands.

Moscow Seeks To Register Border With Baltics

LD1809151692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1247 GMT 18 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow September 18 TASS—The Russian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Security, as well as executive authorities of some Russian territories have been instructed to hold negotiations on the international-legal registration of the Russian state border with Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Azerbaijan in connection with the need to enhance the protection of the Russian national interests.

Upon the international-legal registration of the Russian border with the above-mentioned republics, the Ministry of Security shall submit to the Russian Government proposals on its demarcation, says today's governmental resolution on a list of arrangements to fulfill the Russian president's decree "On Emergency Measures To Organize Customs Control in the Russian Federation".

In addition, the resolution provides for the soonest beginning of the stage-by-stage withdrawal of troops of the Baltic and Transcaucasian border districts to places of their new location in Dagestan, the Krasnodar and Stavropol territories, and the Astrakhan, Leningrad and Pskov regions, as well as the opening of the necessary number of border check points.

Further on Shikotan Island Dispute

OW1809171992 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1601 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents A. Borodin, S. Ivanov, and I. Proshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Japanese claims to the Kuril Islands cannot be accepted since the islands are controlled by the Russian Federation. The Russian Foreign Ministry told "DP" [Diplomatic Panorama] that such was the ministry's reaction to the Japanese Foreign Ministry's protest on a contract to lease nearly 300 hectares of land on the Shikotan Island for 50 years (this island, along with Iturup [Etorofu], Kunashir [Kunashiri], and Khabom [Habomai], are the subject of a territorial dispute between Russia and Japan - DP); the land was leased to the Hong Kong firm "Carlson and Caplan".

The Russian foreign ministry official said the Japanese document expresses the hope that the government will convince the Sakhalin officials not to go through with the contract.

The diplomat said the lease agreement, which drew sharp reaction from the Russian and Japanese press and was criticized in Tokyo as well, complies with legal formalities and even quotes the Russian law on land use.

Experts from the State Legal Department of the Russian Federation said officials in the Sakhalin and South Kuril region, who signed the lease agreement, were acting within their authority.

Nevertheless, Chairman of the Russian Foreign Ministry Sergey Yastrzhembskiy told journalists Friday that the deal is "suspicious", saying that the reliability of the Sakhalin officials' partner "creates serious concern". Yastrzhembskiy said the foreign ministry would like to be provided with more reliable information in order to determine its position on the issue.

The Russian Minister of Justice Nikolay Fedorov said there is sufficient basis to "declare the deal null and void, since it would definitely be detrimental to the government".

The minister said he considers conclusions on the legality of the agreement "doubtful", since such a large plot of land (2 percent of Shikotan's total land mass) was rented for the equivalent of maintaining two "Volgas" for a year.

Fedorov quoted Article 49 of the Russian Federation Civilian Code, where it indicates that transactions which contradict the interests of the government are invalid.

Official Calls For Japan To Help Develop Kurils

LD2009165192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1510 GMT 20 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Varlamov]

[Text] Tokyo September 20 TASS—Progress in the solution of the territorial issue between Russia and Japan can be made by developing economic cooperation on the southern islands of the Kurils as is envisaged by President Yeltsin's five-stage plan for the solution of the problem of "northern territories," Georgy Kunadze, the Russian deputy foreign minister, said in an exclusive interview to the Moscow correspondent of the newpaper MAINICHI published by the newspaper on Sunday [20 September].

Kunadze said he believes President Yeltsin will visit Japan not earlier than next year, since "relations with Japan are more complex than with other countries" and the Russian president's calendar till the end of the year is full. Kunadze urged the Japanese side, first of all, not to yield to emotions, since they will not do any good either to diplomacy or to the efforts of both governments, and, second, to show understanding for the situation in Russia and to readjust the Japanese stand.

Government Envoy on Latvian Talks 22-23 Sep

LD1809191492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1758 GMT 18 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Igor Shubin]

[Text] Moscow September 18 TASS—The Russian state delegation to the negotiations with Latvia will do its best to search for mutually acceptable solutions at the next round of negotiations scheduled for September 22-23, delegation head and Russian special envoy Sergey Zotov told ITAR-TASS.

For the first time at the level of state delegations, the sides will discuss the Russian initiatives of August 6, 1992, on radical reduction of terms of the Russian troops withdrawal from Latvia and the withdrawal completion in 1994.

Unfortunately, these possibilities are narrowed due to the unfavourable atmosphere in bilateral relations stirred up by the Latvian radical-nationalist forces, said the Russian diplomat.

Representative To Defend Interests in OMON Case

OW1809211192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1722 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An employee of the Russian MFA [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] consular office has been sent to Riga to observe the proceedings in Riga during the trial of the commanding officer of Riga's OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment], Sergey Parfenov, said director of the Russian MFA department for press and information, Sergey Yastrzhembskiy, at a briefing in Moscow. "Russia will not permit any unlawful actions with respect to its citizen" he emphasized.

"In our opinion, Sergey Parfenov's arrest by the Latvian interior ministry officers on the Russian territory was unlawful," Sergey Yastrzhembskiy said. Unfortunately, it was made with the knowledge of the Russian Procurator's Office which made a grave mistake." Sergey Yastrzhembskiy emphasized that a Russian citizen could not be handed over to a foreign state, hence the operation conducted by the Latvian law officers on the territory of Russian Federation runs counter to the country's sovereignty.

Mr. Yastrzhembskiy also revealed that the Russian MFA has made several official and unofficial attempts, such as the note of November 12, 1991, at returning Mr. Parfenov to Russia. He also indicated that Russia's vice president Aleksandr Rutskoy and member of the Russian parliament legislation commission Sergey Shakhray were personally participating in the solution of this problem.

"The Latvian side made statements indicating its preparedness to show goodwill in considering our appeals, which were followed by their refusal to return Mr. Parfenov," Sergey Yastrzhembskiy said. In his words, Riga was normally founding its denial on the need to conclude an agreement between Russia and Latvia regarding the countries' legal assistance, whereas "such an agreement has nothing to do with this case."

Commission Chief on 'Tenor' of Estonian Accord

OW1909151792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1459 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of the joint Russia-Estonian commission for observing the implementation of the Russian-Estonian agreement, deputy of the Russian parliament Nikolay Medvedev, said at a press conference in Moscow Saturday [19 September] that at the next session of the Russian Supreme Council, opening Tuesday Sept. 22, he is going to insist on the Russian parliament changing the tenor of some of the articles in its resolution "On Human Rights in Estonia".

The above resolution which was passed by the Russian parliament July 17 obliged the Russian government to "introduce temporary economic sanctions" against Estonia and instructed conformable parliamentary committees by Sept. 20 to "prepare a draft resolution of the Russian Supreme Council in regards to temporarily rescinding the action of the Russian-Estonian State Agreement". The above measures were to be taken in response to the human rights violations to which, in the words of the Russian parliamentarians, the Russian-speaking population was subject to Estonia.

Mr. Medvedev characterized some of the provisions of the parliament statement as "crude" and "liable to revision". He noted that the resolution in July was passed "under the pressure of the rightist forces" as well as "under the unpardonable pressure from the part of some of the Estonian parliamentarians" (taking part in the discussions over the Russian parliament resolution was deputy of the Estonian parliament Vladimir Lebedev - BALTFAX).

In the words of Mr. Medvedev, the Russian-Estonian agreement "was concluded in a hurry" and it "does not take into account Russia's interests". "By signing this agreement, Russia made a goodwill gesture with respect to Estonia, counting on reciprocity," he said, which "Estonia began taking advantage of some of the provisions of that agreement and use it for attaining its own goals".

In answering the question by the BALTFAX correspondent, Mr. Medvedev indicated that Russia is expecting the bloc "Isamaa" ("Fatherland") to win at the elections scheduled for Sept. 20. This bloc will be "pursuing a policy aimed at creating a mono-ethnic state", he said.

Official Brands Estonian Elections 'Injustice'

LD1909155292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1420 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Sep—A situation in which 42 percent of the population of the Estonian Republic are excluded from participating in elections in no way fits into the framework of international law, Nikolay Medvedev, chairman of the joint Russo-Estonian commission for monitoring the fulfillment of the treaty on the principles of interstate relations between Russia and Estonia and member of the Presidium of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, declared. He spoke today at a news conference for Soviet [as received] and foreign journalists at the White House on the subject of "Estonia on the eve of elections—human rights and the position of the Russian-speaking population."

Having returned recently from Tallin, where he familiarized himself with the practical implementation of the Russo-Estonian accords, Nikolay Medvedev explained that, according to Estonian legislation, hundreds of thousands of people will not be able to go to the polling stations tomorrow to vote for the president and new republican parliament.

Nikolay Medvedev drew journalists' attention to the fact that this injustice is taking place against a background in which Council of Baltic States, including Estonian representatives, are informing the world public that the rights of ethnic minorities in Russia allegedly are not being observed. He adduced an example: Of the 80,000 population of the town of Narva, only 6,000 can take part in the elections.

Nikolay Medvedev recalled the July resolution of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, which emphasized that in the event that crude human rights violations continue in Estonia, the appropriate parliamentary committees and commissions and also the Government of Russia have been instructed to prepare, by 20 September of this year, draft documents temporarily suspending the effect of the treaty between the Russian Federation and the Estonian Republic on the fundamental principles of interstate relations.

"We are not demanding anything special from the Estonian side—only the observance of all the clauses of this treaty," the chairman of the joint Russian-Estonian commission said. Nikolay Medvedev expressed the hope that the Estonian side, which, he pointed out, is now interpreting in its own way the treaty's article on citizenship, will display a sensible approach and will make amendments to the article which will allow the removal of the clauses which are encroaching upon the rights of the Russian-speaking population.

Pacific Navigation Pact Seen Heralding Others

PM2109102592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[INTERFAX report: "South Korea, China, Russia, and Japan Create Single Radio Navigation System in Pacific"]

[Text] South Korea, China, Russia, and Japan have signed an agreement in Moscow on creating a single sea and air radio navigation system.

The International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) is guarantor of the agreement. As Vladimir Shimko, chairman of the "Internavigatsiya" committee (the organization which signed agreement on Russia's behalf), told INTERFAX, the document provides for the synchronization of the work of 16 shore-based stations on the four countries' territories.

The draft document will increase sea and air travel safety in the Pacific from Chukotka (Russia) to Indonesia, an area of around 30 million square km. This agreement will be of considerable economic benefit to the sides because it removes the need for them to build new radio navigation stations of their own at a cost now estimated at $15 million-$17 million.

Vladimir Shimko, who is also president of the Russian corporation "Radiokompleks" (created by enterprises of the former Ministry of the Radio Industry), stressed that the Russian side is presently examining proposals from several Western firms on the joint production of radio navigation signal transmitters and receivers for users. On average they cost $5,000 on the world market and demand at present is for around several hundred thousand units. It is proposed that the units will be produced at converted Russian enterprises. In V. Shimko's opinion, this will create thousands of jobs in the defense industry and ensure the high profitability of enterprises.

V. Shimko also announced that Russia intends signing agreements on the creation of similar radio navigation systems in the Baltic, the Mediterranean, and the Black Sea.

Sale Terms of U.S. Butter Shipments Reported

PM2109104392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Sep 92 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report under "Food" rubric: "Prices for U.S. Butter Will be Lower Than Market Prices"]

[Text] With a view to implementing the agreement on free deliveries of U.S. butter to Russia as humanitarian aid, the government has ordered that the butter's sale must be carried out in accordance with the Russian Federation's existing retail trade regulations. Prices for it are to be fixed by local administrations with the agreement of the Russian Government commission for questions of international humanitarian and technical aid. They must also be 15-25 percent lower than the average market prices.

Twenty-five percent of the total earnings from the butter's sale are to be paid into accounts of local funds for the population's social protection, and the remaining 75 percent of the clear proceeds into the account of the republic (federal) fund for providing social support to the population. The chiefs of local administrations have been instructed to give U.S. representatives access to all necessary information and facilities to ensure that the above-mentioned agreement's terms are monitored and met.

Yeltsin, Gaydar Discuss Debts, Economic Reform

LD1809194792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1710 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text of statement issued by the press service of the president of the Russian Federation in Moscow on 18 September]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Sep (ITAR-TASS)— A meeting was held today between Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, and Yegor Gaydar, acting chairman of the government. They discussed the most important issues of the day. In particular, the discussion concerned deferring the payment of the former Soviet Union's foreign debt to Germany and the United States. It was noted that during the Russian president's telephone conversation with FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl and U.S. President George Bush the leaders of the foreign states expressed understanding of and support for Russia's position.

Measures to implement the decree on increasing fuel prices were also considered. An analysis was also made of the social consequences of that decision. Agreement was reached on further deepening economic reforms.

Boris Yeltsin and Yegor Gaydar discussed matters relating to Russia's financial situation, taking account of the falling exchange rate for monetary units within the European currency area.

The acting government chairman briefed the president on the results of his trip to Russian oblasts. They exchanged opinions on measures that the government proposes to implement to enhance the local effectiveness of reforms.

During a discussion of winter preparations and a stocktaking of the first results of this work, it was noted that there are no grounds for anxiety over providing the population with food and fuel.

Ministry Analysis Detects Economic Crisis Shift

PM2109121992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Sep 92 Morning Edition pp 1-2

[Article by Irina Demchenko: "Russian Economy: Crisis Enters New Stage"]

[Text] The Russian Ministry of Economics Center for the Economic Situation and Forecasting has prepared analytical material for the government on trends in the Federation's socioeconomic development. The document, which is based on a large amount of statistical material and on sociological research data collected by the center itself, testifies that profound changes began in the Russian national economic complex in July attesting that the crisis has taken on a new quality.

Industry: Critical Production Slump

The rate of decline in production increased sharply in the second half of the year. Whereas the monthly drop in volumes in industry stood at an average of 13 to 15 percent during January-June compared with the corresponding period last year, in July it stood at 21.5 percent and in August at 27.2 percent.

Coal extraction fell 11 percent in August compared with the same month last year. Oil extraction fell 14 percent during the first eight months, and 13 percent of the operational wells in the oilfields are inactive. Gas extraction fell for the first time—by 3 percent in August. The reduction in the main types of metal products in ferrous metallurgy stood at 21 percent in July. Daily output of the most important types of products in machine building was the lowest this year. A significant slump occurred in August in the chemical industry, in mineral fertilizer production, and in the timber, woodworking, and pulp and paper industry. Production of paper fell 15 percent in August compared with July, and production of cardboard fell 14 percent.

In the opinion of the study's authors, the sharp drop in industrial production volumes starting in July is connected with the fact that it was only in mid-year that state economic policy began directly affecting the behavior of producers. Prior to that neither the liberalization of wholesale prices, nor the change in the system of cashless transactions, nor the payment crisis had, in practice, a serious effect on the traditional relationship between suppliers and consumers. Delivery pledges were being fulfilled out of inertia, production was working for production's sake, and output became virtually an end in itself.

The decline in volumes during this period was occasioned mainly by such traditional causes as incomplete deliveries of raw materials, subassemblies, etc., and certainly not by a fall in demand. According to the data of an investigation conducted by the center, at 67 percent of industrial enterprises, stocks of finished products in warehouses grew during the first half of the year, while at a further 17 percent they remained unchanged. Signs of a crisis of demand were developing in parallel with this placid existence. The center's specialists believe that the turning point was the switch to prepayment for output produced—which, unfortunately, was very belated.

The center conducted its own conjunctural investigation into the business activity of Russian industry. The enterprise leaders who participated in it are sure that the production slump will continue through the end of the year and will be particularly bad in the chemical industry, light industry, machine building, and the construction materials industry. More than 50 percent of the leaders of industrial enterprises declared during the investigation that they can no longer fathom the state of affairs in their own sector. It is characteristic that, while not doubting a further decline in the demand for their output, 79 percent of directors forecast a further increase in its prices and 18 percent forecast that the prices of the first half-year will be maintained.

The Population's Living Standard: A Sharp Decline

During January-August, the consumer prices of goods and services increased twelvefold compared with the same period last year. Prices of foodstuffs increased 560 percent during January-July (whereas the prices of a considerable proportion of foods had been regulated for a long time). Retail prices of nonfood items during January-August increased more than 12 times compared with December 1991. During the same period, the level of prices and tariffs for services rendered to the population increased 500 percent.

The center's research shows that by July, the population's living standard had fallen approximately 20 to 25 percent. The population's nominal money income, as was stated repeatedly at an official level, including the highest level, had increased significantly: an increase of 540 percent during January-July compared with the same period of 1991. But as the center's specialists point out, the actual aggregate income (income minus compulsory payments and voluntary fees, with an adjustment for the consumer prices index) fell by a factor of approximately 1.8 in July compared with July last year.

Despite this, the level of consumption of basic foodstuffs corresponds, on the whole, to the level in the seventies. Approximately 100 million people maintain their nutrition at a level which specialists regard as "acceptable."

At the same time, by the end of the first half-year, approximately 13 million people had an income below the poverty threshold in terms of the physiological minimum, i.e. they were unable to acquire the minimum of foods and medicines and to pay for accommodation out of their income. The purchasing of clothes and the payment of fares on transport are considered outside the concept of the "poverty threshold," which by the end of June was estimated at 1,200 rubles. These 13 million people represent approximately 9 percent of the population—mainly large or incomplete families. It is these people, in the opinion of the center's specialists, who primarily need state assistance, even before pensioners.

The authors of the study are in no doubt that the measures outlined by the government for a centralized increase in work payments in budget organizations and in pensions and other social payments will occasion a further increase in prices, above all for goods in mass demand. This will hit at the socially least well provided groups.

Prices: Consumer Sector Increases at Higher Rate

In industry, prices increased most of all with regard to basic output—petrochemical output by 1,050 percent, chemical output and nonferrous metallurgy products by 500 percent. The average monthly increase in wholesale prices in July and August stood at 15 percent. In June, following the latest administrative increase in energy prices, they increased as follows compared with June 1991: Gas went up 14 times, petroleum 26 times, coal 42 times, lubricating oils 44 times, and gasoline 39 times. As a result, the prices of many types of output, primarily those for intermediate consumption—metals, plastics, chemical fibers, tires, industrial rubber products, paints, etc.—had reached the feasible limit for the present level of enterprises' financial and credit resources even before the new increase on 18 September.

In August, the prices of certain types of machine-building output, whose cost had remained unchanged during May-July, leaped 30 to 60 percent: tunneling combines, elevators, bulldozers, etc. Car prices went up by an average of 70 percent, and cultural and domestic goods produced by machine-building enterprises became 40 to 50 percent dearer. The monthly rise in wholesale prices in the sector in July and August stood at 15 to 16 percent.

The study states that the start of mass purchases of the 1992 harvest at prices which exceed the 1991 level by 25 to 30 times has begun to affect wholesale food prices. Flour and groats went up 70 percent in August compared with July, while in certain regions—Stavropol Kray and Rostov Oblast—the prices of these products increased 300 to 700 percent.

The sharp increase in the amount of money in the population's hands and the reorientation, above all, into purchasing food are stimulating wholesale and retail price increases in the food industry, where the main jump is still to come, in the opinion of the study's authors. They consider the 24-percent August increase in the level of wholesale prices a harbinger of this. According to the center specialists' forecast, by the end of the year the increase in the retail and wholesale prices of consumer goods will most likely overtake the increase in wholesale prices in other sectors of industry.

According to Russian Economics Ministry figures cited in the study, by the end of the year the level of prices in industry will exceed the 1991 level by 20 to 21 times, but this forecast must be deemed overoptimistic: According to Russian State Committee for Statistics data, in June wholesale prices had already increased 20.6 times compared with last year's level (not counting value-added tax, which adds a further increase averaging approximately 20 percent), and the increase in the prices of petroleum, coal, and petroleum products as of 18 September will increase wholesale prices by at least 25 percent more. In addition, during the first days of October credits will begin to be advanced in Russia to counter the nonpayment crisis—which will produce a considerable emission of credit and almost at once affect the level of both wholesale and retail prices.

Foreign Economic Activity: Decline in Exports and Imports

During the first eight months of this year, Russia's foreign trade turnover fell 28 percent compared with the previous year, including a decline of 23 percent in trade with industrially developed countries and 48 percent with the former CEMA countries. There was an increase in the proportion of commodity turnover accounted for by developed and developing countries.

During the eight months, exports fell 34 percent compared with the same period last year, including 31 percent in August. Imports fell 21 percent during the eight months compared with last year, including 45 percent in August compared with August 1991. Purchases of machinery and equipment made up one-third of the imports.

The center's specialists believe that in 1992, the volume of exports will stand at 55 to 60 percent of last year's level, and the volume of imports at approximately 80 percent.

The study draws no general conclusions. But the statistical material presented attests that the Russian leadership's departure from a tough financial and credit policy, given the fact that the financial stabilization for which great sacrifices were made has not been achieved, has had a very serious effect on the economy.

The production slump, which has reached a critical level, will soon bring about progressive unemployment, which will develop against a background of growing inflation. Industry, agriculture, and the population, which have begun adapting to the changes, albeit very slowly and with difficulty, will most likely not have time to make a timely and adequate response to the latest crisis. Ye. Gaydar's statement of resolve to make a new attempt to implement a tough stabilization policy will hardly be perceived with understanding and support, although it essentially could be the last attempt or, at any rate, intention to make an attempt to avoid far greater unpleasantness.

Ministry Deploys More Troops in North Caucasus

LD1909190392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] The Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs has dispatched an additional contingent of its troops to the northern Caucasus. Combat units and a special police battalion will be quartered in North Ossetia, Kabardino-Balkaria Dagestan, and the Stavropol and Krasnodar regions.

A spokesman for the commander of the internal troops says arms and drugs are being delivered in ever-growing quantities to that area of Russia from the conflict-ridden Trans-Caucasus. There has been an alarming increase in the crime rate. A spokesman said that's why President Yeltsin had ordered the ministry to send an additional contingent to the area. The internal troops will see to it that no more arms are smuggled into southern Russia and will also help the local authorities to maintain law and order.

14th Army Officers Express Concern Over Status

LD1809131192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1239 GMT 18 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Kholodyuk]

[Text] Tiraspol September 18 TASS—Officers of the 14th Russian Army are concerned about their uncertain status and rumours that the army would be shortly withdrawn to Russia. Officers sent a message to Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev saying "the people of the Dniester republic (45 per cent of officers are local residents) continue to see the 14th Army as the only guarantor of peace and security in the region."

The attempt to pull out the army "is regarded by people as tragedy and treachery on our part and on the part of Russia, which will lead only to a new, more serious spiral of war, the capture of arms and military hardware," the officers said.

General Staff Says No Plans to Withdraw

LD1809131592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1239 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 18 TASS—ITAR-TASS was told at the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces that there were no immediate plans to redeploy the 14th Army and that its fate can be decided only by the top leadership of the country.

Neither did the press office of the Russian president confirm reports about the withdrawal of the 14th Army from the Dniester republic.

Yeltsin Promotes 14th Army's Commander

LD1809161292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The Russian Information Agency has learned that Boris Yeltsin has conferred the next military rank of lieutenant general upon Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Army.

Rutskoy Opposes Convening Extraordinary Congress

LD1809161992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1525 GMT 18 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow September 18 TASS—Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy spoke against the convocation of an extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies on which the opposition parliamentary bloc the "Russian Unity" insists. At today's meeting with Russian deputies—representatives of the parliamentary coalition of reforms—he stressed that such a congress may destabilize the situation in the country and will not ensure its constructive work.

"We fully share this position. Now, perhaps as never before, the country needs fruitful and coordinated work of the parliament and the government, and deputies told the vice-president about it," Georgy Zadonskiy, people's deputy of the Russian Federation, told ITAR-TASS after the meeting.

According to Zadonskiy, participants in the meeting agreed with Aleksandr Rutskoy that the call of the opposition bloc the "Russian Unity" for the resignation of the government is a politicized and ill-timed step. "It could be understood in normal stable conditions of the life of society, but today it may cut the ground from the feet of not only the representative and executive power but of every Russian as well," Zadonskiy stressed.

Civic Union Adopts Political, Economic Documents

OW1909191492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1518 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday, the Political Council of the Civil Union which unites several movements opposing the Russian government adopted several documents whose content has not been announced yet. The Civil Union's press service said it will reveal the content of these documents next week during a press conference.

The Saturday meeting of the Civil Union was attended by Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, leader of the Democratic Party Nikolay Travkin, co-chairman of the Renewal union Aleksandr Vladislavlev and representatives of the Free Russia and Smena - New Policy factions.

The press service reports that the meeting backed the proposal on giving expert functions to the Central Bank of Russia and on the establishment of the Central Bank's economic council. The authors of the Civil Union's anti-crisis programme have been instructed to specify the economic ways of implementing it.

Rutskoy Attends Council Session

OW2009131192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1240 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the information obtained by IF [INTERFAX], the session held on Saturday by the Political Consultative Council of the Civic Union was attended by the leaders of the 3 parties involved in it (the Democratic Party of Russia, the People's Party of Free Russia, the Union of Renovation) and 4 parliamentary factions (Free Russia, New Policy, Non-affiliated MPs, Center Left).

Russia's vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy took part in the session. Russia's parliament was represented by its deputy chairman Yuriy Voronin.

The main issue on the agenda was debates on the economic situation in the country and the Civic Union's economic program.

The Union's economic strategy provides for "a radical change in the course and philosophy of reforms, a turn from giving priority to financial stabilization to launching an industrial policy aimed at preserving the industrial potential". "This will make it possible to preserve the basic industries without which economic growth is impossible", speakers at the session said.

According to Civic Union experts, the main problem today is a shortage of money in circulation, not excess. A gradual replacement of clearing settlements by settlements in "the live ruble" will make it possible to enliven the economy and implement no-inflation emission fully substantiated with material resources.

The political consultative council of the Civic Union approved a draft program for economic stabilization. It subjected the government's privatisation model to serious criticism. The Russian parliament will give priority to discussing this issue at its session opening on Tuesday, speakers said.

All participants in the session agreed that, despite serious shortcomings in the performance of the Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, they will not support the demand of the Democratic Russia and the Radical Democrats factions that the session begin with considering R. Khasbulatov's activity.

Participants in the session held by the political consultative council of the Civic Union also displayed a negative attitude to the call for promptly convening a special congress. They said that "under the circumstances such a congress would pose a destabilizing factor". It would be preferable to convene a special congress in the coming December, speakers said.

Civic Union leaders paid considerable attention to the activity of Russia's Central Bank which, they said, "should be under the parliament's control and acquire the functions of an expert". According to the Civic Union, it's necessary to form in the framework of the bank a consultative council of experts to promptly assess the government's financial policy. Political council members expressed confidence in the present Central Bank leadership and said that they will support it if the issue of changes in the bank's leading personnel is raised.

According to the information available to IF, participants in the political council session also discussed in general terms the nomination of candidates for the cabinet of ministers. It was decided to discuss these plans with B. Yeltsin and Y. Gaydar. No concrete candidates were mentioned.

Sevastopol Cadets Meets Rutskoy; Affirm Loyalty

OW1909183092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday, Russia's Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy met with representatives of the Sevastopol naval colleges over which a dispute has flared up between Moscow and Kiev. The vice-president's press service quotes the cadets as saying that "despite the statements made by some of the media, none of the cadets of these schools has taken the oath of allegiance to Ukraine despite the pressure put on them".

Last summer the Ukrainian Defence Ministry announced the transfer of two naval colleges over to the jurisdiction of Ukraine, which caused the angered Russian Defence Ministry to declare this decision "illegal".

The press service also reports that on the same day the representatives of the Sevastopol naval collages discussed with Rutskoy "practical measures to normalize the situation with due account taken of Russia's interests".

Shumeyko Explains Need for Fuel Price Controls

LD2109133892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0823 GMT 21 Sep

[By Business-TASS]

Washington September 21 TASS — Prices for energy resources should have been completely and immediately released from state control had a true market economy existed in Russia. But it is necessary to take into consideration that Russian economy is very power intensive while labour productivity is much lower than in Western countries, according to Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko, who is staying in Washington to attend the Russian-U.S. forum on private enterprise and to meet officials from the U.S. Administration.

Had the Russian Government freed oil prices completely, "We would be have come near [as received] to a collapse of industrial production", he told Business-TASS on Monday.

At present fuel prices in Russia comprise only one fourth of the world level, although 4.5 thousand roubles per tonne of oil is very expensive for the country, Shumeyko said.

However, it was necessary to raise prices to promote the development of the fuel and energy producing industries and stabilise oil production, he added.

The Russian Government plans to free energy prices in 1993.

Shumeyko Comments on Role of Central Bank

MK1909112192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Sep 92 p 2

[Report by Sergey Parkhomenko under the "Government" rubric: "Control of Central Bank. Desire To Wrest It Away From Parliament Intensifying in Government Circles"]

[Text] The news conference, officially called a "roundtable meeting," that was held Wednesday [16 September] in the office of Vladimir Shumeyko, first vice premier of the Russian Government, provides us with plenty of reason to speak of numerous, quite fundamental differences of opinion between the cabinet of ministers and the leadership of the republic's Central Bank.

There was no trace of any direct criticism of the Central Bank's activity, nor were any direct complaints uttered against Viktor Gerashchenko in the speech of the traditionally cautious and emphatically correct Shumeyko. Quite the reverse: the vice premier affirmed that the now traditional charges of the "sabotage" of monetary reform, a "change of course" in the stabilization process, and "rejection of the idea of ruble convertibility" are unfounded. However, mention of the seemingly endless train of "consultations," "agreement of positions," "talks," and "finalizing of questions" in the daily practice of interaction between Russian Federation government and financial organs made an impression if only because they were to be found in the answers to most of the journalists' questions.

Answering, inter alia, a question from NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA about the tasks and methods of the activity of the Federal Agency for the Management of Debts recently formed under the State Committee for the Administration of State Property, Vladimir Shumeyko stated: "The stance of the Central Bank, which rejects the possibility of transferring to the agency's control not just the negative but also the positive balances of state enterprises for the issue of securities in circulation, makes any undertaking pointless." As a result, the preparation for the mass privatization of state enterprises, which necessarily includes the procedure for bankruptcy, which has been worked out in detail, is being made far more difficult—that was the conclusion that could be drawn from the vice premier's words.

In restrained but completely definite terms Vladimir Shumeyko also assessed the damage sustained by many sectors of the Russian economy (for example, construction and the construction industry) as a result of the system of the mass withholding of payments practiced by the Central Bank.

In conclusion, Shumeyko expressed his support for the statement by Boris Yeltsin in Cheboksary that the Central Bank should either be given completely independent status or transferred to the jurisdiction of the supreme organs of Russian Federation executive power. "In principle, we are of course inclined toward the first of these two options," the vice premier stated his position precisely at the request of your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent. "The Central Bank should be turned into a state reserve bank which does not come under the control of either the government or the parliament and which is designed to act as a counterbalance to the activity of the commercial banks system. However, we simply do not have such a system today—the majority of 'commercial' banks are not in fact commercial at all, and are also directly controlled by the Central Bank. So at this stage the Central Bank should at least be transferred to government control. After all, the present affiliation to the parliament in fact means being controlled by the relevant Supreme Soviet committee. Hence the decisions are unexpected, hard to understand (that is one way of putting it), and adopted by people unknown to us."

Yeltsin Issues Petroleum Products Ordinance

PM2109100592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 92 First Edition p 6

[Ordinance of the Russian Federation President in Execution of the Ordinance of the Russian Federation President of 1 August 1992, No. 413 "On Urgent Measures to Provide Petroleum Products to Meet State Priority Needs" issued by President B. Yeltsin in Moscow on 5 September]

[Text] 1. The state concern "Rosnefteprodukt" is to sell on the external market up to 500,000 tonnes of fuel oil and aircraft diesel fuel from resources destined for the internal market, settling accounts with Russian suppliers in rubles at internal prices. The hard currency proceeds from these deliveries (apart from foreign currency spent abroad on insurance, transport and shipment costs) are to be paid into a special Russian Ministry of Finances account according to the ministry's directions.

The Russian Ministry of Finances is to ensure the allocation to the "Rosnefteprodukt" state concern, in agreed volumes, of funds in rubles within two weeks of the presentation of shipping documents to pay for the indicated commodity purchases on the internal market.

2. The sale of oil not refined in Russia's oil refining enterprises in the second quarter of 1992 is to be permitted in the volume of 850,000 tonnes under the terms stipulated by clause 1 of this ordinance, by reducing deliveries of petroleum products according to the Russian Federation Government 20 January 1992 ordinance, No.100-rs.

3. Funds in foreign currency received in the Russian Ministry of Finances' account in line with the present ordinance are to be used to pay for import purchases of winter-grade automobile gasoline and diesel fuel according to the request of the "rosnefteprodukt" state concern, and the Russian Ministry of Finances is to be given ruble funds at a level not less than that needed to cover the ministry's expenses, indicated in point 1 of the present ordinance. The Russian Ministry of Economics Prices Committee is to determine internal release prices for winter-grade automobile gasoline and diesel fuel purchased in line with the given ordinance.

4. Foreign economic deals on the export and import of goods in line with the present ordinance are to be exempt from customs duties.

The Russian State Customs Committee is to levy duty for the customs registration of export and import shipments in line with the given ordinance in rubles only.

5. The Russian International Bank for Economic Cooperation is to issue licenses for the export of petroleum products according to the established procedure.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[Dated] 5 September 1992, No. 489-rp

Economy Minister, Others View Oil Price Hike

LD2009222792

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1800 GMT on 20 September, as part of the "Itogi" program, broadcasts a 10-minute report on the Russian energy situation in light of Russian President Yeltsin's decree raising fuel prices as of 1 October.

Announcer Sergey Dorenko opens the report by noting that "the rise in oil prices could add up to more than a new across-the-board price rise. In theory, it will bring order to the marketplace. In practice, however, it will almost inevitably cause another burst of inflation, wage increases, and yet more inflation."

Correspondent Natalya Chernyshova offers an explanation. She states that the price of oil has an impact on virtually all goods and services in the economy and has a direct impact on the standard of living. Measured in terms of petro-dollars, Russia's living standards are plummeting, largely due to the decline in oil production. She notes that there are 20,000 deposits currently standing idle; of 12 new deposits, only three are being exploited. Meanwhile, 80 percent of all equipment is obsolete. Oil-producing regions have no money, not only due to nonpayment by customers but because the selling price of oil is less than the extraction cost.

Video cuts to Vice Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin. He states: "We have no pipelines, we have no reagents, we have no cables, and we have no fittings. Not because these items are not available, but rather because we cannot afford to buy them. Government and presidential measures are far from popular and difficult to explain. But I think we have nowhere else to go."

Yuriy Shafranik, head of the Tyumen Oblast Administration, then notes that the president and government sought to delay price hikes until after the bulk of the harvest had been gathered. However, they had to act now because most other prices in the economy are already at world market levels, thus placing oil-producing regions at a disadvantage: "Kazakhstan offers us, the Tyumen Oblast, grain at 20 to 25 rubles a kilo, which is already a world market rate, even at the unofficial ruble-dollar exchange rate. So this phase of price regulation will force other sectors within the economy to not simply push their prices up but to actually start competing with goods and produce already available on world and European markets."

Chernyshova continues by noting that oil prices will now be governed by commercial considerations, thereby making it a disadvantage for one to price one's own product too high. She cites the following example: "An oil price of over 4,000 rubles a tonne means a maximum profit margin of 50 percent for those who produce it and 10 to 20 percent for those who refine it."

She continues, stating that Chernomyrdin believes that "because of this, raw oil will not exceed 6,000 to 7,000 rubles a tonne or petrol over 18 to 22 rubles a liter. The situation is clear: the decree, teasingly titled On State Regulation of Prices for a Specific Type of Energy Resource, has in effect increased fuel and most utility and transportation prices. No decree is needed for all the other prices to rise—it is only natural that they will. But the chickens will come home to roost. The price of oil will return to the oilmen as still higher prices for everything else. Then they will have to think about raising their own prices again."

Professor Vladimir Popov, from the government's Academy of Economics, justifies the rise in oil prices in terms of Russian industry's profligate power consumption per unit of output. "Prices will have to go up regardless", he comments, "and the sooner the better, because then we can sooner reap the gains of a more energy-efficient economy." He also advocates closure or retooling for the worst power-guzzlers.

Back in the studio, station correspondent Dorenko introduces Russian Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev and asks whether the public should be worried about what this week will bring them. Nechayev answers: "I do not that anything extraordinary or dramatic will happen from Monday onward. Regarding what energy prices, which are on everybody's mind, I want to state that this is not an administrative price increase. We have dropped that practice. The price of gas, electricity, and coal remain as they were. We have simply moved on to a new way of regulating the price of oil and oil-based products. In the past we relied mainly on administrative methods, but from now on we will regulate oil and oil-based product prices in terms of profitability, through increasing payments into a price-regulation fund—a fund which will provide resources for compensatory payments to citizens and to support the less well-off—and also other budget expenditures."

Nechayev adds that the main thing is that energy prices, and in particular prices of oil products—and in the future other prices linked to them—will be determined not actually by energy prices but by the extent to which we allow ourselves to relax our finance and credit policy or, more simply, the extent of demands on the government to increase subsidies and increase wages for coal miners. He states that there are factors no less important than energy prices: increasing handouts to provinces, stepping up loans to enterprises, bailing out bankruptcies, and so forth. These things, and not a new price-regulation system for energy, are what is going to determine price levels and our future living standards.

Dorenko questions the psychological effect of these price rises and notes that they have taken place just before a Supreme Soviet session, where the opposition is flexing its muscles and aiming to call an extraordinary congress to overthrow the government and president. He asks if there is any significance to this timing.

Nechayev replies: "The decision was not specifically linked to the Supreme Soviet session but rather to the end of the harvesting season so as not to move the goal posts and have to come up with extra subsidies. This shows that the government has a clear-cut plan of action and that we are trying not to tie it to short-term political factors. The opening of the Supreme Soviet is of course a major event, but I am still inclined to be optimistic and I think that the deputies will be wise enough not to do anything extreme that would be to the detriment both to them and to the entire country."

Bank Official Advises on Savings Vouchers Use

LD1809201292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 18 Sep 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today the Moscow Gosznak factory starts printing vouchers. As is known, we will able to obtain them from 1 October.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent I. Pankov] The vouchers will be distributed by branches of the Russian Savings Bank. For this purpose, in the provinces commissions are being set up, premises are being allocated, and additional personnel are being recruited.

When will you have everything ready?

[V.A. Mitichkin, deputy chairman of the Russian Savings Bank] By presidential decree, the distribution of vouchers starts from 1 October 1992 and finishes on 31 December 1992. During the three months—throughout those three months—people will be receiving the vouchers to which they are entitled. That is why there is no need to line up at savings banks, especially during the first few days the vouchers are available.

Notarial commissions in provinces are being set up to coordinate this process and put it into an organized channel. Every resident of Russia will be registered at a particular establishment of the Savings Bank, which will be distributing privatization vouchers. In some places it will be done on the basis of a block of houses, the street where citizens live, or the village, depending on local conditions.

[Pankov] Who is entitled to the vouchers?

[Mitichkin] The right to receive the vouchers is granted to any citizen of Russia who permanently resides on its territory, irrespective of his income, and also servicemen of the Russian Federation who are serving outside Russia; and also all citizens who were born before 2 September 1992 have the right to receive a privatization voucher. A person receives his voucher according to his residence registration.

[Pankov] Once again we are on unfamiliar territory, but we would like to know: what we can do with the voucher? The answer to it is no secret. Here is some worldly advice.

[Mitichkin] If I were in our people's place, I would not be in a hurry to exchange vouchers for ready cash, taking into consideration the current rate of inflation. [end recording]

Experts Forecast Further Decline in Economy

LD1809205792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1150 GMT 18 Sep 92

[By BUSINESS TASS correspondent Vladimir Mikheyev]

[Text] Moscow September 18 TASS—"The economic situation in the country will worsen by the end of this year," said 62 per cent of 518 respondents polled by Moscow University's opinion poll service. The service presented its report on Friday saying the respondents included economists, analysts, banks, financial institutions and organisations of any kind of ownership.

Only four per cent said the economy would improve by January 1993, 18 per cent believed there would be stabilisation and 16 per cent replied they did not know.

Government plans to make the rouble convertible by the end of this year would fail, according to 72 per cent of experts, as against 16 per cent who believed the government would succeed. Twelve per cent found it hard to answer. At the same time the majority of specialists (64 per cent) saw the situation on the Russian currency market as an objective indicator of the economic situation, while 28 per cent held an opposite view.

Interestingly, most experts (56 per cent) said the rouble would regain its strength, and 39 per cent replied they had doubts about the rouble's future.

Attempts by the Russian Central Bank to regulate the rouble exchange rate by interventions at auctions held by the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange (MICE) were dismissed by experts as unsuccessful. Only 12 per cent supported those actions, as against 44 per cent who thought the interventions did little to improve the economic situation. Thirty seven per cent believed the measures had a negative effect. The respondents split evenly on whether the interventions should be continued: 48 per cent were sure that the Central Bank would discontinue such practices, while 34 per cent replied they would remain.

"By the end of September the rouble rate will stabilise at approximately 250 roubles per U.S. dollar," said 62 per cent of those polled as against 25 per cent who believed that the rouble would sink even lower. Most specialists agreed that the rouble rate did not depend on Russia's relationship with Japan (54 per cent), while 19 per cent thought the rouble's fate would depend on whether relations with Japan would improve or worsen.

Minister Questions Legality of Shikotan Lease

LD1809165692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The Hong Kong company Carlson and Kaplan, that has leased a section of the island of Shikotan, has stated that its current owner is a person named Chen, a Taiwan businessman. Japanese radio reports that Chen has promised to get in touch soon with the Japanese Consulate General in Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, Russian Federation Justice Minister Nikolay Fedorov thinks that the current deal cannot be regarded as lawful. A large plot of land, comprising about 2 percent of the land area of the island, has been leased for 50 years for a sum that equals, in one year, the value of two Volga cars. We are thus talking about significant losses being sustained by our state. Russian legislation is not indifferent to such actions. A definite legal mechanism exists that provides for state intervention in such cases.

The minister noted that there are sufficient grounds to deem the aforementioned deal null and void, as inflicting a clear loss to the state with all the consequences emerging from this. It is evident that procuracy bodies must draw a corresponding conclusion and adopt measures to correct the violation of the law. It only remains to express the wish that this should be done in a timely fashion.

Deputy Minister Views Foreign Policy Direction

LD1909110992

[Editorial Report] Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian at 0730 GMT on 19 September carries a 53-minute talk by Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev, first deputy foreign minister, on diplomacy toward the former Soviet republics.

He opens by saying that it is important to set up normal relations with the former union republics. They are now sovereign states, members of the UN. Our relations must be based upon the norms of international law. Azerbaijan may yet join the CIS, which now has 11 members. It is perfectly normal for states to have differing viewpoints on various problems; it is only before that we all had to see eye to eye. The CIS is acquiring mechanisms for settling issues. The CIS is a seven-plus-four structure: seven states enjoy close cooperation; four—Ukraine, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan—have not yet determined their attitude toward the CIS.

A listener asks about the borders with Turkmenistan and about Kovedyayev's party membership. "I have never been a party member, never belonged to any party," he says. As for borders with Turkmenistan, we know that Turkmen border violations are and have been a problem, hence we must address ourselves to the problem of safeguarding our own Russian borders, not least from the drug trafficking from Afghanistan. But I do not mean a militarized border, like the USSR used to have, Kovedyayev says. We must have a normal border which facilitates normal human and economic contacts.

Following a short musical interlude, a listener asks about relations with the Baltic states. Kovedyayev says we must see the difference between Lithuania, on the one hand, and Estonia and Latvia on the other. In Lithuania, the position of the Russian-speaking population is better than in Estonia.

A listener says that the most-favored-nation status granted to Estonia should to be repealed. Kovedyayev says that a coherent policy toward the former union republics must be worked out.

Discussing the status of the former Soviet Embassy in Latvia, Kovedyayev says that the building will eventually be handed over to Russia.

Asked what can be done about the various conflicts in the former USSR, Kovedyayev says that Russia acts as a mediator, endeavoring to settle conflicts peacefully, introducing observers and peacekeeping forces. The situation is exacerbated in Georgia and by the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict. Russia is not shirking its responsibility for settling this conflict. The models whereby this conflict can be settled are now broader, more internationalized. Lately some hope has emerged that we shall find a way out of this blind alley.

Asked about the death sentence for Lieutenant Lukin in Azerbaijan, Kovedyayev says the Foreign Ministry was the first to react, asking for the sentence to be commuted. Now Yeltsin has added his weight to these pleas.

As for borders with Ukraine, the minister says the borders are unseen. My wife is Ukrainian, and we do not intend to create any barriers here. The process for establishing our embassies in newly independent countries is under way. We have embassies in Kiev, Tallinn, and Riga; soon we will have embassies in Bishkek, Ashkhabad, and Yerevan. We have encountered some linguistic problems where staffing is concerned, but the process is under way.

Regarding the coming Bishkek CIS summit, Kovedyayev says he thinks that it will strengthen the CIS. Border, economic, military issues, and cooperation will be discussed. In June and July, the Commonwealth began to feel, to realize, that its existence is after all necessary.

Asked whether he has spoken recently with the U.S. ambassador, Kovedyayev answers in the affirmative. I met his adviser, and we talked of settling the conflicts because we cooperate very closely with U.S. representatives who are preparing the Rome meeting.

Steady Public Support for Government Reforms

MK1909105292 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Sep 92 p 1

[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Support for Reform Not Decreasing"]

[Text] The center for the study and forecasting of social processes has conducted its first autumn opinion poll on the attitude of the population of key areas in Russia toward the changing living conditions. As part of the St. Petersburg sociologists' program, around 10,000 people were once again polled in Moscow, Petersburg, Samara, and Kemerovo—approximately 2,500 in each of these cities.

At the beginning of September, 45 percent of St. Petersburg inhabitants believed that the economic reforms begun by Yegor Gaydar's government should be continued. Two-thirds of that figure disagreed with them to some degree—30 percent. The rest had no clear opinion on this issue. The figures cited are almost the same as the figures obtained in St. Petersburg in midsummer.

Information Minister Pledges Subsidies for Press

LD1909172592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1402 GMT 18 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Guskov]

[Text] Kostroma (Volga region) September 18 TASS—Russian Press and Information Minister Mikhail Poltoranin, on a two-day visit to Kostroma, held a news conference here on Friday. He told journalists that the government would provide subsidies for regional, city and central newspapers, as well as literary magazines in 1993. The ITAR-TASS correspondent asked Poltoranin to dwell on this subject in more detail:

"Generally speaking, the concept is primarily aimed at taking further steps to de-nationalise the mass media. In 1990 when there was the union and the CPSU, which kept a tight rein on all mass media, we set up regional newspapers and provided them with subsidies through government agencies. Otherwise they would not have survived. Now that the CPSU has been disbanded and party publications have gone independent, there is no point to maintain a sprawling state-owned mass media. All of them are set free which does not mean that they will be left to the mercy of fate. In 1993 many periodicals will continue to be subsidised by the state. This also applies to television, radio and thick magazines."

Democratic Reforms Movement Ready for Referendum

MK1909153592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Sep 92 p 2

[Report by Ye. T. under the "In Brief" rubric: "Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms Fighting Fit"]

[Text] The Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms is in a state of full readiness for the campaign for a referendum on land and on convening or forming a constituent assembly, it was reported at a news conference yesterday by chairman of the movement's executive committee Aleksandr Kiselev.

After calling the collection of signatures an extremely powerful influence, however, Kiselev said that, before utilizing it, a last warning will be sent to Supreme Soviet deputies at the start of the session. "If again no one will listen to us and the Supreme Soviet does not wish to discuss the question of private ownership of land, then we will begin to act," he stated.

Supreme Soviet

Filatov Outlines Agenda Items for New Session

LD1809200292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] As you probably know, the next and fifth session of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation opens next week. Our parliamentary correspondent Nikolay Artemyev asked Sergey Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Russian parliament, to comment for our listeners on prospects for the session's work.

[Artemyev] Sergey Filatov said that at the beginning of the session the parliament would deal with three packages of first priority issues. The first package is devoted to the course of economic reform, the government program and questions connected with people's social protection.

[Begin recording] [Filatov] The second package is everything relating to the Federation Treaty. It is very important for us to take some practical steps at present in order to strengthen the clauses of the Federation Treaty in the legislative aspect since there are already some unpleasant tendencies in this respect.

The third direction is preparation of a new constitution. We have agreed to consider amendments to the new constitution at the session of the Supreme Soviet every month so that we can put forward the adoption of the new constitution at the congress at the end of this year or at the beginning of next year. These are the three universal subjects which we assume will be considerd at the session. As for the struggle, naturally, the economic reform presupposes it and, in my view, we have never had a quiet discussion of this issue at the Supreme Soviet and this is natural.

[Artemyev] Sergey Aleksandrovich, reports are appearing in the media about some disagreement existing among the leadership of the Supreme Soviet.

[Filatov] Well, how shall I put it? Let us say, we had, perhaps, more agreement in the past, than we have disagreement at present. Unfortunately, this is the fact. But it should not hamper our work.

[Artemyev] Reports have even appeared about disagreements between you and....

[Filatov, interrupting] and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet. You know, I think this is a complicated process, and it is not possible to tell the story in two words. There is everything here but the biggest danger is not to turn the parliament into a department—that is, not to create a command-administrative system and, in no circumstances, not to have the situation again when the apparatus imposes its conditions to the work of the deputies' corps. This is the most important thing; I am most concerned by this. In this respect, of course, a lot of work remains to be done. [end recording]

Focus on New Laws, Cooperation

LD1909140492

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 0700 GMT on 19 September carries a six-minute live or recorded interview with Sergey Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, by Irina Lapina, in the "Plus Eleven" program.

Filatov begins by stating that the Supreme Soviet will focus on examining its work program. The parliament will also concentrate on laws which have not been signed by the president and the laws submitted by the president. He declares: "Four laws have reached us so far, all to do with economic reform." The parliament will also examine "the whole package of laws passed at the first reading" at the previous session.

Lapina asks Filatov about legislative and executive power. Describing this question as a very sore point, Filatov says that there is not enough interaction between legislative and executive powers. He says he is pinning his hopes on upcoming parliamentary hearings that must restore the relationship between various bodies of power. "There ought to be working cooperation between ministries, departments, and our presidential structures," he states, adding: "This can only be achieved at large-scale parliamentary hearings in which all sides can take part."

With regard to the state of affairs in the parliament, Lapina asks: "Is there a problem or is this a case of whipping up passions?" Filatov says that individual officials are to blame for the way the parliament is presently perceived. Talk about the dissolution of parliament and new elections are not needed today. People want parliament to keep working, he declares.

Filatov affirms that the worst days of the economic reform are past. "It should not get any worse; it will not." It has been estimated that 40 million people are already involved in market structures, he states, and economic reform is making headway. "I think that in his speech in Cheboksary the president put an end to these questions when he said that for two and one-half years we all must work in a calm, businesslike, and constructive atmosphere."

He then says that there should be an opposition. "The more constructive it is, the better," he declares, going on to say that, although the parliament has certain problems, it must concentrate on passing laws that can work.

Lapina concludes the interview by saying that there will be enough time to criticize the parliament, "and for the time being let us wish success to its routine session."

Centrist Blocs Preparing to Expand Influence

MK2009141092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Sep 92 p 2

[Report by Yevgeniy Krasnikov under the "Confrontation" rubric: "'Civil Union' Intends To Take Power. 'Centrists' Prepare for Parliamentary Session"]

[Text] Evidently it will become completely clear in the very near future whether "political centrism" in Russia is an autonomous force capable of taking the country down the "czarist" middle path, or whether it is the invention of some ambitious political leaders reluctant either to take responsibility for any particular step on the part of the government or to oppose it openly.

On the eve of the latest session of the Russian parliament the "parties of the center" probably for the first time have strong positions among the body of deputies and a real chance of achieving the satisfaction of practically all their main demands. Two centrist coalitions have now taken shape inside the Supreme Soviet: "Democratic Center" (approximately 43 deputies) uniting the "Nonparty Deputies," "Left Center," and "Free Russia" factions; and the "Block of Solidary Forces" [Blok solidarnykh sil] (approximately 38 deputies) uniting the "Industrial Union," "Workers Union," and "New Generation" [Smena] factions.

It is quite clear that both these coalitions will cleave to a "single line of defense": to defend Ruslan Khasbulatov, to oppose the transfer of the Central Bank to government jurisdiction, and so forth. However, the "centrist"-parliamentarians are scarcely likely to agree on a single offensive strategy.

"Democratic Center" is essentially a faction of the "Civil Union" coalition. The last few days have seen intensive meetings between the leaders of this bloc and the bosses of the "Civil Union" at which the course of the upcoming Supreme Soviet session has been discussed. "Civil Union" experts have already prepared a 200-page economic program for the country's development which will be circulated among the deputies in the next few days.

Briefly, its basic idea may be set out as follows: The country's economy can only be revived by boosting the population's demand. An additional emission of money will be required for this purpose. In order not to fuel hyperinflation, the mass of money will be channeled into the "nonruble" areas of the economy. In the first place, noncash settlements among enterprises will be switched to "normal" ruble-based relations. Also, the ruble is to become the only legal payment unit in export and import operations, where hitherto the dollar has reigned supreme.

In the opinion of the program's elaborators, the "Civil Union" economic program option is not of a rigidly opposition nature in relation to the government program and can easily be combined with the latter.

Unlike "Democratic Center," the "Bloc of Constructive Forces" [Blok sozidatelnykh sil] has not prepared its own alternate version of the government's economic program and, evidently, will be putting forward documents adopted by the first All-Russian Conference of Commodity Producers as their policy materials.

However, it should be noted that, as distinct from the "Civil Union" leaders, the leaders of the "Bloc of Constructive Forces" (mainly industrialists and leaders of the "New Generation" faction) are of a much more resolute and opposition frame of mind. In their opinion, "Civil Union" chief Arkadiy Volskiy is too tied up in the tactic of continuous comprises and in attempts to resolve global political issues by means of "backstage diplomacy." It is to be assumed that on a number of issues (for example, the organization of special parliamentary hearings devoted to violations of the laws during the distribution of privatization checks) the "Bloc of Constructive Forces" will line up with the "Russian Unity" communist-patriotic opposition coalition.

By all appearances, "Russian Unity" is not averse to concluding an alliance with "Democratic Center," too. At any rate, at a recent news conference one of the leaders of the opposition deputies, Ivan Robin, declared a readiness to support the program option proposed by "Civil Union." But it seems highly doubtful that the leaders of "Civil Union" will agree to such a coalition. Such a manifest "leftward" shift may destroy the entire centrist coalition or, at the very least, remove from it the least stable elements (the Democratic Party of Russia, for example).

Even without this, it seems that the "Civil Union"-"Democratic Center" bloc has an excellent opportunity for maneuver. Judging by everything, one of the chief issues at the session will be the determination of a date for the upcoming congress of deputies. The opposition intends to insist on the congress's being convened at the end of November. And it is assumed that the deputies will lift the moratorium on elections of administration heads (imposed through 1 December), deprive Yeltsin of his additional powers, and adopt their own version of the Law on the Government (with the subsequent resignation of the Gaydar cabinet).

For his part—again judging by everything—the president has no intention at all of altering the existing situation, and he intends to convene the deputies' congress only in the spring for the adoption of the new constitution and a decision on self-dissolution.

In the opinion of Vasiliy Lipitskiy, chairman of the Board of the "Free Russia" People's Party, "Civil Union" will maybe agree to support this position of the president's, but on condition of a substantial amendment to the government's program and composition. In other words, if the Russian president finds himself in a critical situation, "Civil Union" is prepared to support him with its own deputies' votes in the event of the replacement of the most odious figures in the government with "Civil Union" people and the incorporation in the government program of all the amendments proposed by "Civil Union".

The "centrists"—and above all the "centrists" from "Civil Union"—believe that in this way they stand only one step away from power. And given a combination of circumstances favorable to them, this step may be taken at the new session of parliament.

Parliamentary Groups Unite Against Yeltsin

MK1809082392 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Aleksey Zuychenko under the "Russian Supreme Soviet" rubric: "Opposition's Fall Offensive. Both Left and Right Have One Target—Boris Yeltsin"]

[Text] The leaders of the "Russian Unity" parliamentary bloc, which unites the Supreme Soviet factions opposed to the government, yesterday made public at a news conference an "Agreement of the Left and Right Opposition." A coalition of chiefly communist and nationalist parties and movements—designated a "united opposition" in the document—has, it seems, finally taken shape. Mikhail Astafyev, people's deputy and head of his own relatively small Cadet party, declared that the members of the coalition are prepared to forget the existing differences among them until the "full realization" of the chief common goal—"the removal from power of the Yeltsin ruling elite." Judging by everything, the "Russian Unity" bloc is prepared to represent the united opposition in parliament. The immediate aims cited in the "Agreement"—the convening of an extraordinary congress and the abrogation of Boris Yeltsin's presidential powers—are precisely the goal of "Russian Unity" in parliament. Accusing the "ruling regime" of numerous violations of the Constitution and of pursuing an antinational policy, the united opposition states the impossibility of cooperating with it. Following the removal from power of President Yeltsin and the cabinet of Yegor Gaydar, the coalition intends to form a government of national confidence and in the course of the coming year to hold "general elections to the supreme representative organ of power" of Russia.

From all appearances, "Russian Unity," which was formed at the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies as a bloc of opposition factions, is ceasing to be a parliamentary minority. At the last Supreme Soviet session "Russian Unity" frequently proved to be in the majority, outvoting the progovernment factions. And now that a definitive rift has occurred between the democratic parliamentary groupings and Chairman Khasbulatov, for whose election the majority of them exerted no little effort, the opposition bloc has acquired a real opportunity to become the "ruling force" in the Supreme Soviet. Having supported Ruslan Khasbulatov and opposed his resignation, which the democrats are today insisting on, "Russian Unity" is doubtless counting on the active gratitude of the speaker. In order to increase the dimensions of the gratitude and simultaneously strengthen the leadership of parliament the bloc intends "to raise at the session the question" of First Deputy Speaker Sergey Filatov. This was stated by Gennadiy Sayenko, leader of the "Communists of Russia" faction, who accused Filatov of seeking "to crush and eliminate the Supreme Soviet." Observers are remarking that "Russian Unity's" hopes of a lengthy alliance with Ruslan Khasbulatov will most likely prove vain. The speaker of parliament, having exploited the opposition's support, will scarcely be able to reciprocate for long, and once he is convinced that resignation no longer poses a threat to him he will endeavor to stifle the demands for impeachment by maneuvering, as usual, between the factions and setting them against one another.

International Affairs

Kozhin Views Black Sea Talks, Command Structure

AU2109110792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] The commander of the Black Sea Fleet must be a versatile person capable of satisfying the interests of different sides—Ukraine and Russia. This idea was expressed by Rear Admiral Borys Kozhin, commander of Ukraine's Naval Forces, in an interview for SLAVA SEVASTOPOLYA. Touching upon the latest round of negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet problems, he pointed out that the main question was resolved in Moscow: The fleet commander will be nominated on the basis of consensus reached by the two presidents—Leonid Kravchuk and Boris Yeltsin.

The structural principle for building the joint command has also been determined. The commander of the fleet will have two deputies, one of whom will represent Ukraine and the other—Russia. Borys Kozhin suggested in the same interview that the negotiations on the joint command will be completed in Kiev on 21 September during a meeting between state delegations of Ukraine and Russia. Following this, over 10 days, specific military figures must be appointed as candidates for the Joint Command of the Black Sea Fleet.

Admiral Kasatonov Cited on Conflict Over Base

PM1809150992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Sep 92 p 1

[Vladimir Pasyakin report: "Admiral Kasatonov's Protest"]

[Text] The business of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's attempt to unilaterally "privatize" two higher naval schools in Sevastopol is not yet over (their fate has still not been decided), but a new large-scale act is now being undertaken to divide up the Black Sea Fleet. This time it is a question of important structures of the Kerch-Feodosiya Naval Base.

In this connection Fleet Commander Admiral Igor Kasatonov made an official statement 16 September. It states that the Ukrainian Defense Ministry has recently been continuing unilateral actions in the Black Sea Fleet to illegally transfer to its own jurisdiction ships, units, and establishments under the fleet's command. Thus, its emissaries made an attempt to take over the military commandant's office of the main base, a warship was abducted, and there is an ongoing campaign to Ukrainianize Sevastopol's higher naval schools. Today it has been the turn of transferring military units of the Kerch-Feodosiya Naval Base, which is an inalienable constituent unit of the fleet and was created by the labor of more than one generation of naval seamen. In the admiral's opinion, this is being done without prior arrangement, ignoring the agreements reached in Dagomys and Yalta....

"It was like this," the fleet commander told me. "A group of generals and officers headed by Lieutenant General G. Zhivitsa arrived in Feodosiya. The fleet command had not been notified of this. At 1335 hours on 15 September the chairman of Feodosiya City Soviet called the duty officer at the research center and invited the command of the center and of the test sites under its jurisdiction to an official conference. Approximately one hour later City Soviet Chairman Novitskiy personally telephoned Rear Adm. Revenkov, the center's deputy chief, and specified that the conference would be held under the leadership of Lt. Gen. Zhivitsa of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry on the question of transferring military units under central command in Feodosiya to Ukrainian jurisdiction. After the report on this I prohibited the participation of Ukrainian Defense Ministry representatives in the conference and their unsanctioned access to the territory of military units. The Ukrainian defense minister's order transferring naval units under central command to the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry was announced at the conference, which was attended by—in addition to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's representatives—the chief of the ship repair yard, the temporary acting commandant of Feodosiya Garrison, and the garrison's military prosecutor. The installations and the deadline for transferring the units were indicated—before November 1992. To conclude the conference, Lt. Gen. Zhivitsa issued instructions to the generals and officers accompanying him to start receiving the units. But the attempts to persuade Captain Third Rank Kiznev, temporary acting commandant of Feodosiya Garrison, to transfer without delay to Ukraine's jurisdiction by means of promises, blackmail, and threats had no success. The same applied to Capt. First Rank Yasonidi, chief of the test base of one of the research center's administrations, on whom 'pressure' was brought to bear by Major Gen. Doroshenko, a representative of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry. Lt. Gen. Samoylenko, chief of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's communications troops, was not admitted to the territory of the signal center.

"Both Vice Adm. Sergeyev, chief of the naval research center, and I, as commander, conforming to the agreements adopted in Yalta and Dagomys, regard as unlawful, the actions undertaken by the representatives of the Ukrainian military department. In our opinion, moreover, they are provocative and aggressive and thwart the accords reached on the Black Sea Fleet by the two states' presidents. For the structures in question, with the possible exception of the ship repair yard, are subordinate to the Black Sea Fleet.

"I believe that the object for 'privatization' has not been chosen by accident. As is well known (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA wrote of this 30 January 1991), a unique test base for naval weapons and technical facilities has been created in Feodosiya—a test-site infrastructure probably unequaled throughout the territory of the former Soviet Union.

"The actions that the Ukrainian Defense Ministry has taken recently are destabilizing the situation in the fleet, drawing it into political games, detracting from the resolution of urgent tasks, and sowing ethnic strife among Black Sea Fleet sailors."

The fleet commander issued a resolute protest in connection with the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's unlawful and illegal actions.

"I reserve the right to take adequate measures to maintain the integrity of the Black Sea Fleet until its final fate has been decided by the presidents of the Russian Federation and Ukraine," Adm. Kasatonov declared.

Vice Adm. Vitaliy Larionov, first deputy commander of the Black Sea Fleet, who had talks with Lt. Gen Georgiy Zhivitsa's group, traveled out to the scene of events in Feodosiya. A repeat session was held at the city soviet, where representatives of the Black Sea Fleet and the Kerch-Feodosiya Naval Base tried to convince Zhivitsa's group of the unfounded nature of the Ukrainian defense minister's order and, thus, of the unlawful nature of the group's actions, but the sides did not reach agreement.

Defense Aides on Sevastopol Colleges, Black Fleet

MK1909115092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Sep 92 p 3

[Aleksandr Pilat report under "Crimea" rubric: "'As of 21 August CIS Black Sea Fleet No Longer Exists,' Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lopata, Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Stated at a News Conference in Sevastopol"]

[Text] "It is the opinion and deep conviction of specialists that the problem of the Sevastopol colleges is an artificial one and has been created out of nothing, since they have long been included in the Ukrainian Navy system because of their territorial affiliation and financing," Aleksandr Lopata stated. "The work of a Ukrainian Defense Ministry commission is being organized in accordance with Ukrainian Supreme Soviet decisions, decrees of the Ukrainian president, Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers resolutions, and orders of the Ukrainian defense minister." He also noted that the 34 Ukrainian military colleges are to be reformed into nine military institutes. The first phase of this work has already been concluded in 32 of them. Problems have only arisen in Sevastopol. It was stressed that the "Black Sea Fleet command is putting every obstacle in the path of the commission's work without the legal grounds to do so. The reasoning of the command and Admiral Igor Kasatonov personally boils down to the fact that Ukraine is not participating in the CIS Joint Armed Forces. However, according to the protocol signed at the Yalta meeting on the question of the training of students and officers in the Ukrainian and Russian Armed Forces, the sides committed themselves mutually and on a treaty basis to train servicemen for both states. This has been the legal basis for the reform of the Sevastopol colleges."

Major General Yuriy Prokofyev, chief of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry Military Education Directorate, who took part in the news conference, stated that "the path being taken by the Black Sea Fleet command may lead to the emergence of hot spots, as in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Dniester region, and Abkhazia. The conflict, which was invented by the Black Sea Fleet command, is spreading to military collectives and public organizations. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry and Navy reject all accusations of creating a tense situation in the Black Sea Fleet and of the unlawfulness of the measures being taken to reform the two Sevastopol colleges."

To a question about reports in certain mass media, particularly the Ostankino Television Company, that the two Sevastopol colleges are part of the strategic forces, Prokofyev replied as follows: "Under the Minsk agreement, each state autonomously determines the composition of its strategic forces, and Ukraine is acting in accordance with this agreement." He also added that of the 34 CIS colleges, only six are not part of the strategic forces, but the Russian side has not laid claim to any of them apart from those in Sevastopol.

When asked whether the Black Sea Fleet is part of the CIS Navy, Aleksandr Lopata answered that "as of 21 August the Black Sea Fleet does not exist. There are the navies of Ukraine and Russia."

Naval Press Center Issues Black Fleet Statement

LD1909164192 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] The press center of the Naval Forces of Ukraine has made a statement. It is noted that recently the situation in the Black Sea Fleet and in Sevastopol has sharply deteriorated. The statement reads that the blame should be placed on its command which, by its illegal actions, is trying to wreck the fulfillment of the Yalta agreements.

It shows, in particular, in the actual boycotting of the work of members of the commission of the Defense Ministry of Ukraine in Sevastopol on reforming the higher naval academies and in inciting people to disorder. The press center calls on all interested sides to adopt a balanced approach and respectful attitude toward the state and its laws.

We are also calling, the statement reads, on the presidents, supreme councils, and state delegations of Ukraine and Russia at the talks on the Black Sea Fleet to speed up the process of elaborating, agreeing, and signing documents which would make the Yalta agreements more specific. This would ease the tension to a considerable degree and eliminate the causes and possibilities of conflict situations in the Fleet, it is stressed in the statement by the press center of the Naval Forces of Ukraine.

Commission Examines Black Sea Fleet Subordination

AU1809131692 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] On 17 September, a commission of Ukraine's Defense Ministry began work in the Black Sea Fleet. Its main task is to produce a competent conclusion on the resubordination of the military units and institutions that, until recently, were under the jurisdiction of Moscow. The work of the commission is complicated by the fact that Igor Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, continues to arouse passions around the allegedly forced Ukrainization and illegal actions on the part of Ukraine's Defense Ministry. However, the members of the commission are meeting with support among the majority of units and institutions. Their personnel express the desire to swear allegiance precisely to the people of Ukraine, considering this process to be inevitable and just.

Defense Ministry Takes Control of Fleet Buildings

LD1809224792 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2100 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] From now on all the structural organizations, enterprises, and military building units within the Black Sea Naval Fleet will be subordinated to the Ukraine Defense Ministry. Such a decision was taken at the conference of the chief officers of the military building units of the Black Sea Naval Fleet. The decision is based on an agreement achieved back in January this year between the building bodies of the combined forces of the Commonwealth and Ukraine Defense Ministry.

Naval Schools Dispute Sparks Appeal by Cadets

OW2009131092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1239 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The situation concerning the Admiral Nakhimov and the Naval Engineers schools located in Sevastopol is aggravating.

The defence ministries of Russia and Ukraine are in dispute over them. The Ukrainian defence ministry wants to place them under its own jurisdiction. Its Russian counterpart objects to these plans, accusing its opponent of violating the agreements on the Black Sea fleet reached in Yalta.

The press service of the Ukrainian Navy reports that 50% of officers and petty officers in the Nakhimov school and 65% in the Naval Engineers school have sworn allegiance to Ukraine.

However, at their Saturday's [19 September] meeting with Russia's Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy in Moscow, spokesmen for the two naval schools in Sevastopol declared that "contrary to some news media statements" not a single member of the schools swore allegiance to Ukraine, "despite the pressure exerted on them". As IF [INTERFAX] was told at A. Rutskoy's office, participants in the meeting also discussed practical steps that "would make it possible to take Russia's interests into account in full".

At the Nakhimov school the cadets were to hold a conference Saturday afternoon to discuss to whom they should swear allegiance, to Ukraine or to Russia.

However, said the press center of the Republican Movement of the Crimea, representatives of Ukraine's defence ministry banned the conference.

Nevertheless on Saturday the undergraduates met with the school's director Rear Admiral Vladimir Denisenko and with the chief of Ukraine's future Naval Institute, Captain Viktor Makarov.

During the meeting a spokesman for Ukraine's defence ministry said that, unless they swear allegiance to Ukraine, the cadets in Sevastopol might find themselves in the situation that had to be faced by graduates from Kharkov's school of aeronautics. The graduates who refused to swear allegiance to Ukraine received diplomas where no officer's rank was mentioned, and were denied employment.

According to the information received from the press center of the Republican Movement of the Crimea, at the Nakhimov school the undergraduates wrote an appeal to the presidents and parliaments of Russia and Ukraine, requesting them to "decide the destiny of the naval schools in Sevastopol by political methods, by means of signing an appropriate agreement".

In their appeal the cadets also called for imposing "a moratorium on swearing new allegiance till the present undergraduates conclude their studies and the issue of their employment is resolved".

According to the information obtained by IF, the school's director Rear Admiral Vladimir Denisenko gave the cadets permission to hold a general meeting to discuss the appeal to the presidents and parliaments of Russia and Ukraine.

A rally was to begin at 12:00 on Sunday in Sevastopol's Admiral Nakhimov Square in connection with the situation in and around the naval schools. Besides, its organizer, member of the Crimean Supreme Council Aleksandr Krylov, was to call for returning the city under Russian jurisdiction in compliance with the 1948 bill which granted the main Black Sea fleet base the status of a city belonging to the Russian Federation.

The city authorities did not allow the rally to be held. A. Krylov was told by sources in the police that Ivan Ermakov, representative of the Ukrainian president in Sevastopol, had instructed the local law-enforcers to take steps to prevent the rally. In the meantime about 5 thousand Sevastopol residents, cadets and naval officers, including spokesmen for the Black Sea fleet command, announced their intention to attend the rally, A. Krylov told IF.

Cracks Discovered in Chernobyl Nuclear Plant

LD1709162392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1345 GMT 17 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Krupenik]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 17 Sep—The sarcophagus of the fourth set of the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station has become unsealed in places. Academician Spartak Belyayev reported this at an international conference "Nuclear Technologies in Tomorrow's World," which is being held in St. Petersburg. The scientist from the Russian scientific center, the "Kurchatov Institute," noted that although six years ago the builders promised that the covering would be reliable until the end of the century, the "concrete body" has already yielded cracks: Atmospheric deposits are periodically penetrating the cracks.

To confirm this the leading expert on the consequences of the nuclear catastrophe presented his colleagues with data on observations, calculations, and unique television and photographic film taken in recent years by expeditions of scientists from Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Kiev. Thanks to original technical judgments, the teams of scientists were able to "peep" through the mass of concrete and metal into the old reactor building.

According to Academician Belyayev, the total area of cracks and fissures in the artificial covering of the power set remains has reached 1,000 square meters. The second thing that worries experts now, said the scientist, is the old and explosion-damaged elements of the building structures. "One cannot guarantee that they will hold up for a long time. They may fall down." Academician Belyayev cautioned that releases of radioactive dust through the unsealed covering are to be expected as a result. "Nevertheless, every measure is being taken to somehow secure the dust, especially on the top floors, and special watering of the wreckage is carried out periodically."

The established realities, noted the Moscow scientist, make one think about what should be done next. As calculations show, over 90 percent of the reaction fuel has remained inside the wrecked building. The academician reminded that in the summer the Ukrainian Government announced an international competition for the best project to make the Chernobyl facility ecologically safe, and expressed a personal opinion: Before implementing any constructive ideas, first a hermetically sealed "lid" is needed, inside of which a technological platform with robot-transporters could be placed. After that the dismantling of the obstructions should be gradually started, separating the highly radiation-polluted materials from the other elements, packing them into special containers, and burying them right there. Today this is the optimal way, concluded the expert of the "Kurchatov Institute" Russian scientific center.

Kravchuk Rejects Nazarbayev Confederation Plan

OW1809225392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1811 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The lack of a response from the Ukrainian leadership to the idea expressed a few days ago by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on the transformation of the CIS into a confederation does not mean that former Ukrainian officials do not have an official position on the matter. Their position was explained earlier by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, reminded the president's press secretary Vladimir Shlyaposhnikov.

Their position is that Ukraine chose for itself a path of independent development as a sovereign state. The notion of a confederation is not acceptable to Ukraine, announced President Kravchuk earlier in an interview with the "Novosty" television company.

Minister on Limited Scope of Foreign Investments

OW1809224892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1812 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine's minister of investments and civil engineering, Volodymyr Borysovskyy, admitted that the scope of foreign investments into the republic was limited. In his interview, he mentioned the fact that "Ukraine has in fact preserved the monopoly of state property," noting that it only has made its "first steps in the direction of privatization". The minister acknowledged that even though most of the legislative efforts in regards to foreign investments have been completed, the republic has not created adequate conditions for the new laws to be applied.

Government Ready to Sign Nonproliferation Treaty

LD2109061592 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Ukraine has confirmed its intention to join the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons and is ready to take every necessary step in this direction. This was stated by Hans Blix, general manager of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], at a news conference place in Vienna. He noted that six nuclear units situated on the Republic's territory—five nuclear power stations, including Chernobyl, and one research reactor in Kiev—would be placed under IAEA control.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Laos

AU2109084492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Mykola Makarevych, Ukraine's first deputy foreign minister, and ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Laos People's Democratic Republic [names indistinct] signed a protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Laos has become the 94th country with which Ukraine has established diplomatic relations.

National Affairs

Deputies Demand Cabinet Reshuffle

LD1809191192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1443 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Excerpt] We have Kiev on the line, where a Ukrainian Supreme Soviet session is continuing and to which our correspondent Vladimir Sokolov is accredited. He is now on a direct line:

[Sokolov] It was expected that this session of the Supreme Soviet would be very stormy. The preceding one, you see, ended on the verge of a government crisis, postponed only until the present session, when it was proposed to the president that he should present a new Cabinet of Ministers.

Very serious misunderstandings between the Supreme Soviet and the government also remained unresolved. A noisy campaign mounted by RUKH [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka], which is supported by its partners in opposition, for early elections to the Supreme Soviet itself, is also continuing. The question of its self-dissolution was even proposed for today's agenda of the session, although it is true it was rejected.

The opposition also demanded an immediate report from the Cabinet of Ministers, with a clear emphasis on lack of confidence in it, and also a speech from the president on the economic and political situation in the republic.

However, both the prime minister and the president turned out not to be ready to speak, requesting a 10-day postponement period, while the deputies, after a fairly heated discussion of the agenda, came to an agreement that about 100 questions submitted for it should nonetheless be considered, and, fairly peacefully, they moved on to this consideration. They have already adopted a number of very important laws, and also a very timely decision on cutting value added tax from 28 to 10 percent on a number of meat products, which should noticeably bring prices for them down.

A decision was also adopted on Ukraine joining the Vienna Convention on the legal succession of states and the Treaty of 1959 on the Antarctic, where Ukraine plans with time to open its own scientific research station. Treaties on friendship and cooperation with Poland and the Republic of Turkey and on mutual understanding and cooperation with the French Republic were ratified. Generally speaking, normal and fairly fruitful work is under way.

However, it is precisely this that the opposition, which is to all intents and purposes, headed by RUKH cochairman Vyacheslav Chornovil, is dissatisfied with. He expressed himself in the following way:

[Begin Chornovil recording] Indeed, the session began unusually quietly and calmly—and that is our misfortune. Our deputies have either become tired now or they have understood—well, the democratic section of deputies—the hopelessness of further struggle with the government within parliament, and [words indistinct] no more for the resignation of the government.

Therefore we will more likely be applying the main pressure by extra-parliamentary methods. We have begun to collect signatures for the dissolution of parliament and for a new parliament on a multi-party basis. This will also be strong pressure. [end recording]

[Sokolov] Here at this session, however, when they listen to the report from the Cabinet of Ministers, and from the head of the National Bank and the president, one must suppose that battles will also get under way.

[Begin recording] [Chornovil] There will be a tempest in a teapot, as we already now know. Behind-the-scenes talks are under way right now on changing the composition of the government. Fokin is being kept as prime minister, and this is being presented as almost a government of national unity, and so on. Our parliament will be satisfied and will end on that note. This is not a solution.

[Sokolov] So you do not expect good prospects from this session?

[Chornovil] No. You know, in my view the parliament is demonstrating that it has become obsolete. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Leaders Appeal to Deputies for Constructive Work

LD1809223192 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] On the eve of the opening of the latest session of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine, political parties, public organizations, and some citizens of Ukraine share their opinions and wishes with the people's deputies. The main thought of most such appeals is concern over the future of our state, the preservation of political stability, and the creation of conditions for effective implementation of economic reforms.

Today, heads of rayon soviets of people's deputies address the Supreme Soviet with a collective appeal. It says: Esteemed people's deputies! We are forced to address you by our sense of responsibility for the future of Ukraine which is entering the most crucial period of its formation as an independent democratic state, the period of completing the basis of the national economic policy which has been proposed by the president of Ukraine and approved by the Supreme Soviet.

On the very eve of the introduction of our own currency, carrying out privatization, structural changes in the economy and agriculture, some irresponsible political leaders insist on the immediate resignation of the head of the government and the whole Cabinet of Ministers and the dissolution of the Supreme Soviet. All this is in line with the attempts to draw Ukraine into new international formations. We hope that you will show balance and good sense and will raise the reputation of the Supreme Soviet by starting the session not with squaring accounts with certain officials but with constructive legislative work and the adoption of the laws and documents whose absence today hinders the implementation of the economic reform in the country.

The necessary reorganization of the government is possible only under conditions of calm cooperation between legislative and executive structures which is understood well by us, the leaders of the bottom links of the state authority.

The appeal is signed on behalf of 182 heads of rayon soviets of people's deputies by leaders of the delegations of 21 oblasts of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea as well as by heads of rayon soviets of Lvov oblast.

Fokin Cautions Against Destructive Forces

LD1909013492 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Ukraine Prime Minister Vitold Fokin was interviewed by Ukrainian Television yesterday. Replying to a question on the rather contradictory interpretations by the Russian mass media of his brief visit to Moscow, where according to their assertions, Fokin came to ask for credits worth 100 billion rubles, the prime minister of Ukraine said that we are used to distortions of the truth by Russian journalists. However, in this case, in the opinion of the prime minister, the reason for the misinformation is that the journalists were insufficiently informed. [passage omitted]

Fokin said in the interview that on our journey to Moscow, we did not ask for any credits, on the contrary, we came to claim what is owed to us for products delivered to Russia. The prime minister said that after the talks an agreement was signed on the opening of correspondent accounts, which will receive technical credit to give enterprises of Russia and Ukraine the opportunity to pay for products delivered in a normal way.

Replying to a question on the plans for a way out of the crisis situation for Ukraine's economy, about the demands for the resignation of the Cabinet of Ministers, the next sixth session of the Supreme Council, the prime minister emphasized that the situation in the republic is being made artificially and deliberately tense by certain political activists with the aim of creating a new government crisis and seizing power. Toward the end of the interview Fokin addressed the citizens of Ukraine. In particular, he said:

[Begin Fokin recording] I am forced to address you by concern for the fate of our state, the sincere desire at this difficult time to preserve understanding, peace, and harmony in society. I will say this, consolidation of the people is the first and essential condition of our further independent development. What road Ukraine goes down depends on each of us today. Either we will survive the attack of ruinous, destructive forces and continue to remain, I would say, the most stable state of all the republics of the former Soviet Union. After all, thank God, not a single drop of blood has been spilled here on our long-suffering land.

So either we will remain such a republic, or give into provocative calls of newly appeared prophets; we will be drawn into political feuds, our political forces scattered, and in the end, we will lose all of our democratic gains. If so, we would destroy the faith of the people in the bright ideal of an independent democratic state possibly forever. We will destroy the hope of peace, the hope of accord, the hope of wealth and prosperity. I will tell you straight, the fate of future generations is being decided today.

The economic crisis in Ukraine is deep. However, luckily the situation is not hopeless. It only demands, I would say more than anything demands, faith in the government, the president, to the Supreme Council. [passage omitted]

So I am turning to you, do not let yourselves be provoked. Speak your part in defense of peace and calm. Our greatest wealth is political stability and interethnic accord. Up to now it is our greatest, and perhaps our only, capital of our young state. The only one, but it is very valued in the whole of the world. [end recording]

Defense Minister on Status of Armed Forces

PM1809133792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Sep 92 pp 1,2

[Interview with Defense Minister Colonel General Konstantin Morozov by Colonel Vladimir Kaushanskiy; place, date not given: "We Must Help One Another at This Difficult Time"]

[Text] [Kaushanskiy] Esteemed Konstantin Petrovich, how would you define the level the Ukrainian Armed Forces are at at the moment and their immediate prospects?

[Morozov] We are engaged in intensive work at the moment to carry out our plans and establish a legal basis for the creation of the Armed Forces. Theoretically speaking, we are at stage two. Stage one was the quantitative assessment of the personnel. It was determined by the process of taking an oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian people. Anticipating your question, I will say that all the officers who did not take the oath have, generally speaking, already been dispatched to the states of their choice to continue their service. It was done in a civilized manner, with total respect for these people's honor and dignity and consideration of their demands and suggestions. However, taking the oath, albeit an essential criterion, is not quite enough. Stage two of the reform began in the spring, in March, to be precise. We were determined to eliminate from the life of the forces, instances of abuse of office and corruption, using existing legal acts on these subjects. Another aspect of the present stage is the improvement of the structures of organs of administration. Two operational commands are being created out of the three military districts and a branch of the Armed Forces will be formed out of two previous branches—the air force and air-defense forces [voyska PVO]. It will be the aerial defense forces [voyska vozdushnoy oborony], as envisaged by the military organizational development blueprint and the law on the defense of Ukraine. I believe that by the end of 1993 the group of questions connected with qualitative transformations will be resolved.

[Kaushankiy] No matter how autonomous the Ukrainian and Russian armies might be today in terms of their military programs and doctrines, we are essentially branches of the same military industrial tree: with the same equipment, weapons, supply, and maintenance systems. For decades we have carried out joint scientific research and experimental design work. In the spring the two defense ministries' common interests in the aforementioned sphere were enshrined in an agreement. Is it working? Will it go on working? In other words, do we need one another in the sphere of military-technical collaboration or will the Ukrainian Armed Forces look to the West in this area?

[Morozov] Let me say right away that looking to the West would be too expensive a hobby. I know that almost all of the states that have been formed since the breakup of the Union are generally of the same opinion. Our aim is to make every effort to ensure that the agreements work. We must help one another at this difficult time to keep military equipment in a state of combat readiness, exploiting the military and economic potential our states possess. The Defense Ministry takes a positive view of this kind of cooperation. At the moment we are removing some obstacles that have delayed the implementation of the agreements. In particular, a great deal of work is being done in the arms directorate to coordinate all questions relating to the air force and organization of the maintenance of aviation equipment. The same is taking place in other branches of the Armed Forces.

[Kaushanskiy] In the course of numerous meetings with journalists both President Leonid Kravchuk and you, Konstantin Petrovich, have stressed that the Ukrainian Armed Forces will be formed on a citizenship basis, not on the basis of so-called paragraph five. At the same time, the leaders of some parties and public movements have been persistent in their demands for the top posts to be occupied mainly by Ukrainians....

[Morozov] But let us operate in terms of the law, and it stipulates just one principle for manning the Armed Forces—citizenship. Irrespective of nationality. On the basis of a desire to serve the Ukrainian people and, as I said before, an officer's views of our state. This principle is pretty democratic and takes into account the broadest possible spectrum of officers' interests. There has been a great number of cases here where non-Ukrainians have been appointed to top posts, but Ukraine is their home, their parents are here, this is the land of their fathers. I don't think I have heard any Russians express idignation about oppression, at any rate, I have no information to that effect. Indeed, we consider cadre matters regularly, and very carefully. To be frank: People's fates vary. There are officers who have taken the oath and have now started to wonder whether they made the correct choice. Some remembered relatives outside our state, some decided to be discharged or to be transferred even after the legal act. We are sympathetic. Now there were also some we did not think were suitable, because in terms of their professional or moral qualities they simply have no right to be in charge of people. We are getting rid of these people. However, I repeat, under no circumstances, no matter what decision is being made, do we play the ethnic card.

[Kaushanskiy] The attitude in Ukraine toward the Yalta accords, toward the state's nonnuclear status is rather ambiguous. At the military section session, which took place within the framework of the recent World Forum of Ukrainians, some respected opposition leaders demanded the annulment of both the former and the latter, as not being in the interests of the Ukrainian state. Are there grounds for concern, could it be a backward step?

[Morozov] I do not believe that the Defense Ministry is a structure that should enter into political debates or make political assessments. That is the right of parties, of the Supreme Soviet. What determines our activity is decisions made by the president, as commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Therefore we are working very hard to prepare proposals that will contribute to the implementation of the principles laid down in Yalta.

[Kaushanskiy] What stage has been reached by work on devising the draft agreements which, according to article 11 of the Yalta treaty, the sides are supposed to prepare before 1 October?

[Morozov] A difficult question. Work is going on on both sides. There are discrepancies between the positions. For instance, there are differences in their interpretations of the main principles of the Yalta agreement. The Russian Delegation, for example, has always regarded the transitional period as a moratorium on the division of the navy. However, the purpose of the agreement and the principles laid down in it is to resolve all questions concerning the division of the navy during the transitional period. This period ends with the creation of the Ukrainian naval forces and the Russian navy. There are differences in other areas as well.

[Kaushanskiy] In August KRASNAYA ZVEZDA returned on two occasions to the subject of the fate of a courageous man—Lieutenant General Vasiliy Petrov. The last time was in connection with the Russian president's awarding him, front veteran and twice Hero of the Soviet Union, the order of the Friendship of the Peoples. I mention this because in March, Konstantin Petrovich, you intervened on behalf of the veteran, who had lost both arms in the war, defended him against unwarranted attacks in certain press organs, and issued an order on Petrov's continuing to serve in the supernumerary post of Carpathian Military District deputy chief of artillery. This humane act by the Ukrainian defense minister was welcomed by front veterans, and, indeed, by all decent people. However, it is ordinary war veterans who are asking in their letters: Will the exploit of the soldiers and commanders of the Great Patriotic War not have been demeaned, will their moral rights not have been infringed in the light of the recent celebrations in aid of the 50th anniversary of the Ukrainian rebel army? Will it not mean a change of moral outlook for the current Ukrainian army's recruits?

[Morozov] No the rights and the significance of the exploit of the people who fought for the freedom and independence of their people will not have been demeaned. Finding an identical approach to all historical periods and to all peoples and their heroes who fought for their statehood and freedom is another matter. This principle is entirely in line with the principle of nationwide reconciliation and unity at a difficult stage of the creation of Ukrainian state structures. The process of educating young recruits will include open treatment of all the very difficult periods in history, all the heroes, all the battles, and all the instances in which the nation's spirit of liberation has been manifested. Not a single exploit will be forgotten or concealed, as has happened before, behind ideological barriers. Veterans of the last war need have no doubts on this score. Now a few words about Lieutenant General Petrov. It is our principles at work again. Yes, we gave Vasiliy Petrovich back his previous status. The fate of people of this kind will be decided henceforth at state level. Supreme Soviet commissions are already considering an application to that effect.

[Kaushanskiy] Relations between the Ukrainian and Russian Defense Ministers, and between the republics themselves, have been through some rather difficult terrain littered with distrust, suspicion, and confrontation. Presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk built bridges of trust based on common sense and age-old traditions. Military people can also cross these bridges. What kind of military cooperation do you envisage between the two states and what is their place in the system of collective security?

[Morozov] There is no place for us in the system of collective security, in the Joint Armed Forces structures, and not because we are so bad. The existing legislation says: Ukraine is an independent, nonbloc, and, in the future, a nuclearfree, neutral state. On that basis, we either participate or do not participate in examining various draft documents which are being discussed at the Council of Ministers. I want to stress once again that we are cooperating with the Russian military industry and we are eliminating any obstacles that might arise in our mutual dealings, for the main purpose of fully exploiting our military and economic potential to help one another on a reciprocal basis to maintain the combat readiness of the equipment we have inherited from the former structures of the Armed Forces of the former Union.

[Kaushanskiy] There has been another cooperation suggestion. I am talking about the elaboration of an agreement between the two defense ministries in the sphere of the military mass media. You have been handed a draft agreement.

[Morozov] This is now being discussed. After full consideration we will participate in the preparation of this document.

[Kaushanskiy] Konstantin Petrovich, will you take this opportunity of addressing KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's readers directly?

[Morozov] Let KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's readers not be intimidated by the occasional item containing biased treatment of Ukrainian policy, of our actions to form armed forces. Ukraine is a civilized state and it often comes in for undeserved attacks. Our military policy corresponds to modern views of the world community. As we implement it we are carrying out a very important task—tackling servicemen's social problems. We wish the editorial office's creative collective success in their objective coverage of the organizational development of our state's Armed Forces.

Update on Status of State Grain Order

LD1809200992 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Summary] Farmers of Chernigov oblast have fulfilled the state order for the sale of grain to the state. Bread collecting points have received 355,000 tonnes of high quality grain. This is enough for fodder reserves and seed and will enable considerable amounts to be sold to farmers. As a result of the harvest, 122,000 tonnes of wheat have been sold to the state, while twice the amount of rye as planned by the state order was sold. However, Priluki, Srebnoye, Lalayev, and Varva rayons failed to fulfil the state order.

Parliament Adjourns Until 29 Sep

OW1809213592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukrainian Parliament passed into law the second draft of bill on automobile traffic Friday [18 September]. The law forbids the use in Ukraine of automobiles with right-hand steering. Owners of such cars were given until January 1, 1994 to change the steering mechanism in accordance with the law.

Ukrainian parliament has discontinued its work until September 29. The deputies plan to work through the next week in committee and commission meetings.

Belarus

Shushkevich on Currency, Borders, Democracy, Arms

MK1809120392 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No 37, 9-15 Sep 92 (signed to press 8 Sep 92) p 7

[Interview with Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Republic of Supreme Soviet, by Maria Graczyk of Poznan WPROST; place, date not given: "Belarus—A Lot of Weapons, No Money"]

[Text] [Graczyk] Mr. Chairman, is the Republic of Belarus an independent state? This is not a random question; I am asking because its borders with the other CIS members are still unprotected. Furthermore, the ruble is still the "basic currency" on the territory of Belarus, and, finally, subunits of the former USSR Army are still present on its land.

[Shushkevich] We have to act with deliberation and be guided first and foremost by common sense, not by emotions. It is true that at the moment we do not have our own "currency," but we intend to introduce it—we will have the ruble and the grosh. However, this operation must be carefully prepared—if we carried it out now, we would find ourselves in a very difficult situation. After all, our prices, and indeed our whole economy, are geared to the former USSR's financial system. Achieving actual independence is a very lengthy process. Nevertheless, I believe that we will discover sufficient strength and insight in ourselves to resolve all the problems in a civilized way.

Now something about the borders. At the moment, all we need is customs posts. We do not want to establish any other borders with Russia at the moment, apart from "transparent" ones, not least because of the 2 million Russians living in Belarus. At the moment it is far more important for us that they too "accept" our sovereignty....

[Graczyk] However, after all, Belarus was once one of the most "Russianized" of the USSR's republics....

[Shushkevich] We do not see any threat from this 13 percent minority, and furthermore, I hope that the democratic processes in Russia will continue. Although there is an element of concern here—because of the existence of forces there that are capable of invalidating these processes. So our reaction will depend on what happens in Moscow.

[Graczyk] Does this mean that the sovereignty of Belarus depends on the existence of democratic governments in Russia?

[Shushkevich] Ideal conditions do not exist anywhere. I nevertheless hope that the democratic system of government continues to be retained in Russia. I have great respect for Boris Yeltsin and Yegor Gaydar, and other members of his government. I am also pleased that there are people who represent the citizens' position and have the relevant education in the top posts in Moscow. It is precisely these people who are our guarantees.

[Graczyk] Boris Yeltsin's opponents, however, claim that his government will scarcely hold out until the end of this year.

[Shushkevich] People like Zhirinovskiy, Makashov, Alksnis, and others are pursuing power at any price. God forbid that they should ever get their hands on it. I do not believe that Russia would allow this to happen, however.

[Graczyk] Nevertheless, parliamentary support for the democratically elected leaders is falling everywhere: in Russia for Boris Yeltsin, in Lithuania for Vytautas Landsbergis, and in Georgia, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who was—and there is no getting away from it—elected at a general election, has been removed from power. In a word, it appears that the time of governments composed of "second generation" politicians is setting in. Is such a scenario possible in Belarus?

[Shushkevich] Opposition structures will always exist. Under democracy they have the right to constitutional forms of protest. My aim, therefore, is to construct a state in which power would always take the constitutional opposition into account, but impede any nonconstitutional manifestations of it. Our duty is to use all our resources to preserve the state's security.

[Graczyk] Today this security evidently depends to a great extent on the existence of the CIS, which was in fact born on Belarusian land. What future, in your opinion, awaits the Commonwealth?

[Shushkevich] Since my philosophical education is "based" on Marxism-Leninism, I perceive two options: The minimum option is that the CIS will make it easier to resolve the problems that emerge; and the maximum option is that the CIS will make it possible for its members to cooperate in such a way as to preserve what unites us, and also to help us to get involved in European integration on the basis of the conditions enshrined in the CSCE documents. Belarus would like to carry out the function of a kind of "liaison" between the former republics of the Soviet Union and West Europe in this process.

However, there is a small "but" that is preventing the Republic of Belarus from becoming this "liaison." I mean the fact that your state is today the most militarized state in the world today....

[Shushkevich] This is true. We have the most weapons per inhabitant of the republic, both nuclear and conventional weapons, and therein lies our tragedy; we do not want such a "legacy" from the Soviet Union, but considerable effort and a great deal of money are needed to resolve this problem. I do not believe that anyone will help us in this. Therefore the disarmament process in the case of Belarus will go on for a long time, since we cannot suddenly dismiss all the people who are connected with the defense industry. However, the West, which fears a threat from our direction, must finally understand that if it does not give us economic assistance, this process will not be accelerated.

Naturally, we would first and foremost like to get rid of the "nuclear ballast" over a period of two years, for example, but this is simply unrealizable. We might have been able to do this if it had not been for Chernobyl, which swallowed up an enormous amount of our financial and other resources. The consequences of this monstrous accident have considerably weakened Belarus' economy; it has been estimated that we would have to pay out 16 of our annual state budgets to more or less compensate for the devastating consequences of this accident, consequences which, I repeat, did not occur through the fault of Belarus....

[Graczyk] However, returning to the "minimum option" that you mentioned, which notably envisages the continued existence inter alia of the already established economic ties. How does the economic policy of sovereign Belarus differ from the policy that was, until recently, "handed down" from Moscow?

[Shushkevich] Since we found ourselves in one system for many years, we cannot now, in the space of a couple of months, or even years, jump straight into another. We must pursue a policy that ensures that our independence does not exist merely on paper only, but is real independence. We realize that at present we are an "appendage" of the former USSR; our efforts are aimed at not being one any longer. Since we cannot put this plan into practice in the space of a year or two, we must look at Russia primarily as the source of the raw materials without which Belarus cannot exist.

....At one time we were guided by the "mind of Moscow." However, now we must live by using the mind of Minsk, and we are trying to do this as best we can. However, we continue to be troubled by the fact that over 80 percent of the potential of the Belarus economy has been "directed" into trade, and we so much want to revive its productive force, but how hard it is to attract foreign capital if you do not have the relevant legislation!

....We have also observed serious problems connected with privatization here; I personally am a supporter of the rapid privatization of trade and consumer services enterprises, but the deputies in the Supreme Soviet do not always think the same way. Many old structures are also opposed to this process. However, I believe that it is in this process that the guarantee of our future prosperity lies.

Kozlovskiy on Status of Troops and Disarmament

PM1809130592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Interview with Defense Minister Colonel General Pavel Kozlovskiy by Mikhail Shimanskiy; place, date not given: "What Army Belarus Will Have"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] Belarus is located at the center of Europe and no European state can be indifferent to the sort of armed forces this republic will have or what its military doctrine will be. There is another reason for this interest. Today Belarus is the most militarized state in Europe. Colonel General Pavel Kozlovskiy, the republic's defense minister, tells our correspondent Mikhail Shimanskiy about the problems facing the new Belarusian Defense Ministry.

"It has turned out that the largest concentration of military units and combined units is currently on Belarusian territory," Kozlovskiy says. "There is one serviceman to every 43 members of the population in the republic. That is the highest index in any European country. In comparison I should say that the index in Ukraine is 98; in Kazakhstan 118; in Tajikistan 528; and in Russia 634. As far as our military doctrine is concerned, there have been plenty of discussions about this. The basic point boils down to this: Can Belarus really become a nuclear-free and neutral state? At the present time a national security doctrine, the basis of which is our republic's desire for nuclear-free and neutral status, is being prepared for its second reading in the Defense Ministry. The doctrine envisages the establishment of purely defensive armed forces."

[Shimanskiy] However, nonetheless, Pavel Pavlovich, in order to become a second Switzerland, Belarus must have its own national blueprint for a nuclear-free policy.

[Kozlovskiy] Achieving the status of a nuclear-free power is planned for the closing stage of Belarus's armed forces reform in about seven years' time. By this time the withdrawal of strategic nuclear forces from the republic's territory should be complete.

[Shimanskiy] I would like you to shed some light on a situation which is currently being talked about a great deal not just in Belarus but in other states as well. I am referring to the bilateral military agreement signed between Belarus and Russia. Some people even believe that this document represents a step toward a military alliance on Belarus' part.

[Kozlovskiy] People should not see this bilateral agreement as a sign that our republic is embarking on a military alliance. The contents of this document give no such indication. It defines the status of Russian troops in Belarus, stipulates the terms for their upkeep, and establishes a procedure for resolving all problems relating to their temporary presence on our republic's territory and their subsequent withdrawal. The Russians will primarily be regarded as strategic units. They should officially be transferred to Russian jurisdiction.

[Shimanskiy] It is well known that the Belarusian Military District was one of the best equipped military districts in the former USSR. How do you plan to divide up the district's combat hardware and military property?

[Kozlovskiy] We are not striving to retain any more hardware or arms than are necessary for defensive purposes. Moreover, Belarus intends to comply completely with its treaty obligations in regards to conventional weapons. On this basis, superfluous aircraft, artillery, tanks, and other types of weapons will be destroyed, reprofiled for the needs of the national economy, or dismantled for use as spare parts.

[Shimanskiy] But isn't Belarus intending to sell some of its combat hardware abroad? The money it earns could be used to eliminate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster.

[Kozlovskiy] I do not think Belarus intends to join the ranks of states that export weapons.

[Shimanskiy] What sort of social protection do servicemen in Belarus receive?

[Kozlovskiy] It is impossible not to mention the central achievement of the Minsk meeting of heads of state on 14 February this year—the agreements providing legal and social guarantees for servicemen. The level of rights and privileges established by the laws and other normative acts of the former Union has now been preserved for them. Moreover, any unilateral paring down of these rights and privileges is impermissible. At the same time every state is entitled to increase social protection for this category of citizens.

Provision has also been made for servicemen to keep the citizenship of the republic from which they were drafted for service. At the same time, if on the expiry of his term of military service an officer or warrant officer expresses a desire to remain in the republic where he has been staying, he may take its citizenship.

[Shimanskiy] What can you say about the Belarusian military oath? Will officers and soldiers of the republic's armed forces swear loyalty to the Belarusian people? What about yourself?

[Kozlovskiy] Bearing in mind the situation and the ongoing process of reforming the republic's armed forces, the Defense Ministry has adopted a decision to initiate oath-taking by all servicemen by the end of this year. We have referred a corresponding resolution by the Defense Ministry collegium to the Belarusian Supreme Soviet and Government. We are hoping that people's deputies will support us at the latest fall session. The five-month period prior to oath-taking in the armed forces will allow officers to weigh everything up and make the right choice.

Citizenship and not nationality is the basis for bringing the Belarusian Armed Forces up to strength.

However, we are not indifferent to the fate of the 40,000 officers of Belarusian extraction who are currently doing their military service outside the republic's borders. Many of them would like to come back. We cannot resolve this problem just like that, but we are hoping that the officers will gradually be returned. We will strive first and foremost to transfer those who are serving in difficult regions where conflicts have flared up.

Kebich Discusses Upcoming Talks With Kazakhstan

PM1709120792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Mikhail Shimanskiy report: "Belarus Hopes for Aid from Kazakhstan"]

[Text] "We will have bread, meat, potatoes, and sugar," Belarusian Prime Minister V. Kebich declared optimisitcally 15 September before the opening of the official visit to Kazakhstan by a Belarusian Government delegation.

However, because the republic does not have enough grain to fully satisfy its needs this year, all hopes are pinned on Kazakhstan. Kebich said: We are counting on 2 million tonnes of Kazakh grain. During the visit it is planned to sign an additional agreement between the Belarusian and Kazakh governments on supplying the republic with grain from this year's crop and on helping Kazakhstan to harvest it.

Country 'Actively Seeking' New Oil Suppliers

PM1709121192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 1

[RIA report: "Belarus Seeks New Oil Suppliers"]

[Text] Russia's proposed introduction of free energy prices will increase the cost of petroleum products to Belarusian consumers eight-fold.

Given that the extraction of Siberian oil is falling remorselessly and will only just exceed Russia's own needs next year, Belarus is actively seeking new fuel suppliers, first and foremost Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Moldova

Withdrawal of Russian Regiment Halted

MK1809135092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Sep 92 p 3

[NEGA report: "Moldova"]

[Text] The withdrawal from Chisinau of the CIS's 300th Airborne Regiment has been halted. The reason for this is a protest by the republic's Defense Ministry, which has accused the regimental command of removing property that should be handed over to Moldova.

In this connection unit commander Colonel Aleksey Lebed declared: "A detailed inventarization has taken place in our regiment with the participation of representatives of the Moldovan Defense Ministry. We are effecting the evacuation of the regiment in accordance with the results of this inventarization, while strictly complying with the terms of the protocol signed in

August. We therefore consider the demands of the Moldovan Defense Ministry to be unlawful."

The Moldovan Foreign Ministry has protested the insulting attacks on the Moldovan people made by Major General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of Russia's 14th Army.

As is known, in an interview for the "Ostankino" Television Company, the Russian army commander called the state flag of Moldova fascist.

The statement notes that such actions on the part of the Russian general can be evaluated as "his fulfillment of a political order on the part of certain conservative circles in the Russian leadership."

Withdrawal Under Suspicion

LD1909035892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Excerpt] The withdrawal of Russia's airborne assault regiment from Chisinau was to begin on 14 September. However, the military unit was blocked in. What happened? Aleksandr Brodskiy reports via telephone from Chisinau.

[Brodskiy] Suspicions arose that the airborne assault troopers intended to take with them to Russia, more weapons than the Yeltsin-Snegur agreement envisaged. Moreover, it is plain to everybody that the talks between the leaders of the two republics on the withdrawal of the 14th Army from Moldova, namely from its eastern parts, as the Dniester region is usually referred to nowadays, remain and are going to remain empty words, as long as General Lebed, the commander of that army, can look in the eyes of millions of television viewers and claim that whatever orders are issued by the Russian, let alone the Moldovan, leaders, Lebed, along with his troops, will stay where he is.

A great power, Lebed said, had disintegrated into wretched constituents; that is—if one translates this into the language of common sense and international law—into 15 new sovereign republics, full members of the United Nations. Surely, the general went on, the Army has to find a starting point to regain self-respect. It is noteworthy that this point for regaining self-respect is located, geographically speaking, quite some way outside Russia, on the territory of independent Moldova.

However, the general, being a big shot, is not worried in the least by this fact. Thus, is becomes clear that President Snegur's announcement about the 14th Army's imminent withdrawal to Russia is met with ridicule on the left bank of the Dniester, and with little trust on the right bank. Finding himself at this impasse, Snegur comes under fire of fierce criticism from both sides. [passage omitted]

Official Ties Agreements to 14th Army Withdrawal

LD2009143192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Dniester Supreme Soviet Chairman Grigoriy Marakutsa held a press conference on 16 September on the results of his visit to Moscow. Our correspondent Gennadiy Varfolomeyev reports over the telephone.

[Varfolomeyev] Russia has granted the Dniester region a credit of 1 billion rubles for restoring the economy destroyed by the war. A question of granting credits for another 2 billion is being studied. Answering the questions that interest the Dniester population most, that is, on the talks between Moldova and Russia about withdrawal of the 14th Army to the Russia territory, Grigoriy Marakutsa said: Withdrawal of the 14th Army will be tied to decisions about political status of the Dniester region. We believe that the presence of the 14th Army here acts as a stabilizing factor and prevents Moldova from taking wide-scale actions against the Dniester people. In Grigoriy Marakutsa's opinion, it is necessary to maintain a dialogue on the political level, similar to the dialogue on the economic issues between Moldova and Dniester on the deputy prime ministers' level. It is necessary to search for ways of mutual compromise. On 15 September, the Dniester Supreme Soviet adopted a decision on resuming the talks with Moldova. Grigoriy Marakutsa said, with regret: We are prepared to meet the Moldovan delegation on equal terms, but the Republic of Moldova does not want to participate in negotiations on equal terms.

Dniester Introduces New Government Structures

LD2009220192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] A new government configuration has taken shape in the Dniester region with 13 ministries and 12 committees and administrations. Gennadiy Varfolomeyev reports from Tiraspol.

[Varfolomeyev] The setting up of such a great number of government structures has been perceived by many as a return to the administrative command methods of economic management.

The Dniester region's administration intends not only to supervise, but to rule the economic process; reestablish the torn economic ties; stop the production slump; and simultaneously create new market economy institutions. Then national economic management will gradually shift from administration methods to using economic levers. A new committee for economic reform will analyze economic processes and suggest ways of expanding reform.

Nikolay Kiba, the Dniester region vice prime minister, believes the new structure of the state administration bodies is the mechanism that will help implement the government's economic concept.

The gist of this conception was expressed by Nikolai Kiba as follows: the end goal of our economic program is to stabilize economic processes and ensure, on this basis, the well-being and freedom of the Dniester region's citizens.

It is necessary to point out that the government wants to use tax relief, credits, and investment to encourage enterprises under different forms of ownership, which will expand their capacities, produce the necessary consumer goods, introduce new technologies, create competitive products, and build housing and communal facilities for their employees.

Romanian Envoy Recognizes Moldovan Independence

LD1909130792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1246 GMT 19 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Chisinau, September 19 TASS—"We recognised Moldova's declaration of independence, seeing in it one of the first steps towards historical aspirations of the people - reunification of Romanian historical territories," Romania's ambassador to Moldova Ion Vistreano said in an interview with the Chisinau newspaper PACHYA CHIVIKE /CIVIL PEACE/. According to him, Romania has a realistic approach towards this question and respects expression of the will of "the people from the left bank of the Prut river." "If it has made a firm decision that Moldova should stay independent, then it is our duty to recognise this independence," the ambassador emphasised.

Both states closely coopeerate in different spheres, but the Romanian side does not wish to force proccesses, Ion Vistreanu noted. At the same time one should not forget that besides wishes of of Bucharest and Chisinau, wishes of the leadership and the population attempts to interfere in internal affairs of Moldova are being made by other states either as guarantors or as protectors of some kind of order, human rights and an ethnic group. According to the ambassador, if in the world "everybody begins worrying about the fate other state, all this reminds of a farce fraught with unfarcical consequences."

Workers' Committee Sends Ultimatum to Authorities

AU1809105492 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0713 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/9/1992—Expressing disagreement with the participation of the representatives of the Republic of Moldova in the settlement of the armed conflict, the separatist Workers' Committee of Tighina demands in an ultimatum [sent to] the Tighina town executive to resume the activity of the defense council, MOLDOVA-PRES reports.

Under the current circumstances this would mean to revive the armed guard, to set the detachments of volunteers ready for war. The Workers' Committee also speaks categorically, just as it did before the armed conflict, for the passing of all the enterprises and organizations, the prosecutor's office, and the people's courts [local justice courts] under the jurisdiction of the so-called Dniester Moldovan Republic and for the taking [expelling] of the police commissariate out of town. If not, the Workers' Committee threatens, everything possible will be done to resume the activity of its members in the working collectivities [among workers] to the end of organizing ample actions of protest, MOLDOVA-PRES correspondent reports.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Denies Calling for New Confederation

OW2109121292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1044 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev made an official visit to Germany and France on Monday [21 September].

Nazarbayev spoke to journalists at a Moscow airport regarding a German memorandum on the fundamentals of bilateral relations and an agreement on trade, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation which would be signed.

Another important issue for Kazakhstan to be discussed will be cooperation with Germany to improve the position of Germans in Kazakhstan in order to reduce or halt migration altogether, President Nazarbayev stated. Kazakhstan accounts for 50 percent of the Germans in the former USSR.

In France, Mr. Nazarbayev plans to sign a friendship and cooperation treaty, a trade and economic agreement, and an accord that would guarantee mutual investments.

Responding to a question posed by a IF [INTERFAX] correspondent, Mr. Nazarbayev disclosed the talks with President Yeltsin dealt with the whole set of issues concerning the interests of Kazakhstan and Russia, including closer military integration, political and economic union, grain harvesting, and the situation with fossil fuels. "But the key issue—he said—was the proposal he tabled at the CIS summit in Bishkek. We postponed that meeting to the 9th of October since only half of the 9 points on the agenda were plain information". The main agenda neglected such questions as an interstate banking union, an economic council, a CIS charter.

Kazakhstan's president told IF that he'd never called for setting up a new confederation. "That's not at issue. I just wish that our alliances would provide a proper breathing space for CIS. "Integration is under way all over the world, why should we stay aloof", Mr. Nazarbayev remarked. "But I stress that I do not claim the formation of a new USSR, nor do I urge setting up a confederation of former CIS member-states. Moreover, I feel that those CIS member-countries, that belong to a single ruble zone, to maintain closer economic and political ties, could form a closer alliance with the rest of the former CIS members. But they might be left out of it. But then, the relations between these groupings would be different", said Kazakhstan's president.

Nazarbayev Sets Up National TV, Radio Company

LD1809164392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1515 GMT 18 Sep 92

[By KAZTAG-TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata September 18 TASS—Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev issued a decree on Friday [18 September] to set up a state TV broadcasting company, called "Kazakhstan", under the Cabinet of Ministers of the republic. The Kazakh state TV broadcasting company and regional TV companies are disbanded. The decision is aimed at improving quality of programmes and information services for the population of the republic.

The Cabinet of Ministers was instructed to take measures aimed at strengthening the material and technical base of the company, and improving working conditions of its employees.

Talks Held, Documents Signed with Belarus

LD1809212292 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 14 Sep 92

[Text] Even in our time of general economic chaos and disintegration, stable economic cooperation is being maintained between Kazakhstan and Belarus. All previously concluded agreements are basically being fulfilled. The latest step in the further strengthening of mutually advantageous contacts was the visit to Alma-Ata by the government delegation of Belarus headed by Vyacheslav Kebich, chairman of the Council of Ministers. The visit has just ended.

Today the head of the Belarusian government was received by President Nursultan Nazarbayev. On the Kazakhstan side, Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko and his deputy Yevgeniy Yezhikov-Babakhanov took part in the meeting. During the conversation, which was held in a warm and relaxed atmosphere, they discussed a broad range of matters of mutual interest. They noted the need to make the friendly relations more dynamic, to strengthen the integration processes which have come about, and to create the maximum favorable conditions for establishing market relations.

The heads of the government delgations, Sergey Tereshchenko and Vyacheslav Kebich, on the same day, signed a number of jointly elaborated documents on the results of the negotiations which were held.

Nazarbayev, Local Officials Discuss Food Supply

LD1909061192 Alma-Ata KAZTAG in Russian 0811 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Excerpt] President Nursultan Nazarbayev has held a conference with the heads of oblast and Alma-Ata and Leninsk town administrations. They discussed the issue of the state of and measures to provide the republic's population with food in 1992-93. It was noted that success of this matter depends primarily on how organized the final stage of the harvest is and how the state order for deliveries of grain is carried out. The situation demands that grain procurement is carried out above the state order in maximum quantities. Moreover, such deliveries will be paid in hard currency, and at prices formed at the CIS exchanges. [passage omitted]

Nazarbayev Receives Message From Egypt's Mubarak

LD1909060792 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Tuleutay Suleymenov has received an Egyptian delegation which is in Alma-Ata. It is headed by Dr. Muhammad Ali Mahjub, religious affairs minister. During their conversation, they discussed questions concerning the state of religion in both countries and ways of combining efforts to build mosques on the territory of our republic. The guest handed a personal message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Need for Aid by Nuclear Test Site Victims Noted

OW1709180892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1453 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Forty percent of the children born in the regions of the Altay territory bordering on the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground (Kazakhstan) die shortly after birth. Since 1950, the number of women suffering from cancer and gynecological diseases has increased 10 times. Seventy five percent of women living in these regions are seriously ill.

This information was disclosed during a medical conference in Barnaul by representatives of the Altay State Medical Institute which had examined women in the Uglovka, Tretyakovo, Lokot and Aleysk regions of the Altay territory.

The speakers noted that according to official sources the surface and air tests were carried out in Semipalatinsk from 1949 till 1963. Subsurface tests were carried out till 1991.

The participants in the conference, who represented 46 academic centers and medical institutes, stated that all of the victims should be given medical aid within the framework of a state programme.

Kyrgyzstan

President Accepts New U.S. Envoy's Credentials

OW1709174392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1655 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kyrgyzstan is prepared for constructive and efficient cooperation with the U.S.," [no opening quotation marks as received] President Akayev stated in Bishkek Thursday [17 September] as he was receiving the credentials from U.S. Ambassador Edward Herwitz. He also expressed gratitude to the U.S. for helping Kyrgyzstan gain authority in the world community.

The U.S. ambassador told IF [INTERFAX] that Kyrgyzstan is undergoing cardinal democratic changes and is implementing radical economic reforms. He also said that the economic laws adopted by the Tajik [as received] parliament have put privatization and market relations on a legal footing.

He noted that stability in Kyrgyzstan shows that people have not lost hope and are ready to carry out reforms.

Ties Rupture, Natural Disasters Drive Prices Up

PM1709082992 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Sep 92 p 1

[Report by Yuriy Razgulyayev: "'Pricequake' in Kyrgyzstan"]

[Text] Following the earthquake, a "pricequake" has descended on the tiny republic. Milk now costs 14 rubles [R] a liter instead of R2.5 and butter costs R360-380. However, cost of the basic food here—bread—which so far has been sold for R2.5-4, has particularly struck people's pockets. Now a loaf costs R10-15 and the top quality sort costs even more. However, even these prices are not the limit. The breakdown of economic ties, the growth of prices for energy carriers, and the terrible natural disasters have shattered the republic's financial position. In addition, the minimum wage level in Kyrgyzstan is considerably lower than in Russia....

Naryn Oblast Citizens Protest Price Increases

PM2109133592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 92 First Edition p 7

[ITAR-TASS agency column report: "War on Market Food Stalls]

[Text] The Kyrgyz Government's decision to release prices for flour and items made from it, in addition to dairy products, has provoked indignation among the population of Naryn Oblast.

They have mounted pickets outside the buildings of the local administration. Protesters demanded that the authorities suspend the government's decision and prices for these products be left as they were. However, as the newspaper SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA reports, bread and milk are again to be sold at increased prices. The irate citizens of Naryn smashed market stalls where goods bought up in state stores are sold at three times the price, and assembled again outside the administration building.

If the statistics are to be believed, almost 80 percent of villagers of Kyrgystan were living on the breadline even before the release of prices. Today, when a loaf of white bread cost 20 rubles [R] and butter is over R400, the population's position has sharply deteriorated.

Businessmen Urge President To Update Economic Laws

OW1809193292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1551 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Work has begun in Kyrgyzstan on a program to support business. The acting Director of the president's Business Council Asylbek Ayupov said in an interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] that the program will serve as a basis for a ground roots transformation in economic relations, which will come about by changing the existing legislative system.

Ayupov said the current law on privatization and business activities is outdated. The council director called for new separate laws on privatization and support for business.

The council director said the new laws should stipulate that businessmen are also private owners.

The program for legislative change prepared by the council also suggests that the law on foreign investment be amended with the aim of stimulating such investment. The businessmen said more concrete guarantees on investments should be provided and advised the government to pass a law on free economic zones.

Ayupov said the law on local self-government must be changed to minimize interference by local administrations in business affairs.

The Business Council's program also envisages a thorough re-working of the tax policy, a set of measures to train business staff, and social support for private sector in the event of a firm's bankruptcy. The authors of the document also said registration procedures for private companies should be simplified.

Communist Party Receives Registration Certificate

OW1909172592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1518 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Friday [18 September], Kyrgyzstan's Ministry of Justice issued a registration certificate to the party of the communists of Kyrgyzstan. According to its rules, this party is not the successor of the communist party abolished after the August putsch and does not lay any claims on its property. [ITAR-TASS in English at 1841 GMT on 18 September in a similar report adds: "'We do not lay claims on material heritage of our ancestor, but we do not refuse from the ideological heritage of communists in the sphere of policy, ideology, theory and morals,' said chairman of the republican party organizational committee's executive committee Barpy Ryspayev."] IF [INTERFAX]'s correspondent reports from Bishkek that neither its chairman nor the members of the executive committee will receive any salaries.

The party of the communists of Kyrgyzstan has about 2,000 members, among them ex-communists whose party membership record will not be interrupted. The old party cards will be valid.

On the same day, the leaders of the new party laid flowers to the monument of Lenin in the central square of Bishkek.

Tajikistan

Iskandarov Names Acting Prime Minister

LD2109133592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1307 GMT 21 Sep 92

[By KHOVAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe, 21 Sep—By decree of acting President Akbar Iskandarov, the duties of prime minister were today invested temporarily in Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov.

The decree on the appointment reads: "Taking into account the tense sociopolitical situation that has emerged in the republic and the urgent necessity of implementing measures to normalize the functioning of the Tajikistan economy, Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov has been entrusted temporarily, until the convening of the next session of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan, with carrying out the duties of prime minister of the Republic of Tajikistan."

Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov is 43 years old. Until his present appointment, he worked as general director of the "Non" holding company.

Clashes, Tense Atmosphere Prevail in South

LD1909121592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1045 GMT 19 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Vladimir Gondusov and Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe September 19 TASS—The situation in Tajikistan's south remains anxious. Armed clashes between conflicting groups took place on the outskirts of Kurgan-Tyube and on approaches to the city of Kalininabad on Friday [18 September], a spokesman at the republican interior ministry told ITAR-TASS.

Fighting continued for several hours. According to preliminary data, six people were killed and two wounded.

The situation somewhat stabilised on Saturday morning, although sporadic shots still can be heard, the spokesman said.

The ITAR-TASS correspondents contacted by telephone their colleagues in Kurgan-Tyube who believe that the process of negotiations between the leaders of non-governmental armed groups and representatives of the republican leadership on a ceasefire has been adversely affected by the recent bandit attack on Kulyab volunteers at Shar-Shar pass. Nevertheless, people's deputies and public figures who are members of the peace-making commission from Dushanbe do not lose hope for a resumption of the dialogue.

A motor convoy with humanitarian aid supplies safely arrived last night in Kulyab region, the 800,000-strong population of which found themselves on the verge of starvation.

More than 50 vehicles guarded by the military have brought food, fuel and medicines. Such convoy trips are to be made regular. The residents of Kurgan-Tyube, in which the normal functioning of the city has also been disrupted, are very much in need of relief supplies as well.

The situation at the Nurek hydropower station and on the approaches to the power-industry workers' town has somewhat stabilised. This is connected with the presence of a Russian motorised rifle division's armoured group that arrrived there on Thursday at the request of the republic's leadership.

The U.N. mission continue their work in Dushanbe. The mission members on Saturday met with the leaders of ethnic communities and associations of Tajikistan.

Local Exchanges of Fire Continue

LD1909215892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1942 GMT 19 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Dushanbe, 19 Sep—No major armed clashes in Kurgan-Tyube oblast or other republican 'hot spots' have been reported during the past 24 hours; however, local armed conflicts and exchanges of fire are continuing, and so it is still too early to talk about a stabilization of the situation. It was in these depressing terms that a senior MVD official described the socio-political situation today in Tajikistan. He supported his words with several examples.

Thus, at the Vakhsh state farm in Kurgan-Tyube oblast's Vakhshskiy rayon an unidentified armed grouping attacked a militia post, disarming militia men and seizing approximately 40 automatic weapons.

In the region of the Nurek hydroelectric plant, members of Kulyab local defense forces have blockaded the approaches to the power engineers' town, which is causing serious concern among the local authorities. They have adopted an appeal to the republican leadership and to the leadership of Kulyab oblast, demanding the removal of the blockade of the town, which is having an adverse effect on its vital activity: industrial establishments and building sites are on the verge of stoppage, and there are only enough food reserves to last 24 hours.

Last night was also a troubled one in the Tajik capital. According to information from the same source, an unidentified armed group fired on the detention center where especially dangerous criminals are kept. On 17 September Kuniya Stiven [as transliterated], a U.S. citizen and professor at the University of California, was brought to a clinic of the city of Dushanbe with a bullet wound. According to medical staff, the U.S. geographer was attacked by unidentified persons in the Tavildarinskiy rayon of the Pamir region where, according to the patient, he was carrying out academic research. Today he was released into the custody of U.S. embassy employees in Dushanbe.

Among the flow of these alarming reports there is also good news: a column of 40 trucks with flour is preparing to depart for the region of Kulyab oblast where a tragic situation concerning the provision of food has arisen. This is the second convoy in the last 24 hours. By this evening motorized subunits of the Russian motorized infantry division billeted in Tajikistan, who are carrying out the instructions of Akbarsho Iskandarov, acting president, took up positions at all the most important national economic installations in the zone of the armed conflict to avoid possible sabotage. Posts have also been established at mountain passes, the Nurek hydroelectric station, and the central highways.

Clashes, Hostage-Taking Reported in Kurgan-Tyube

LD2109132392 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Report by unidentified correspondent from Kurgan-Tyube]

[Text] The situation in Kurgan-Tyube Oblast, as throughout the republic, continues to be [words indistinct] of Bakhtarskiy Rayon where since this morning there has been a battle. Shooting is taking place between opposing sides. The number of casualties is increasing daily on both sides. No one knows the number killed.

At around 0920 today, about 100 armed (?men) took hostage Kurbonov, chairman of the Kurgan-Tyube Oblast executive committee; Akhmadov, head of the internal affairs directorate; and Colonel Sayed Khasanov, from the Internal Ministry. They demanded the [word indistinct] in the hands of the militia be given to one of the armed formations fighting at the third unit of [word indistinct] Kubishev state farm. The hostages were taken to the Kubishev state farm. [Words indistinct] and the leaders, Mullo Abdulo and Mula Amruddin, about the release of these three people. The directorate of internal affairs announced that if the hostages were not released immediately, firing would take place against the [word indistinct] armed formations with the aim of destroying them. After this, within two hours, Kurbonov, Akhmadov, and Sayed Khasanov were released. Currently they are all carrying out their work. At this moment—1400—Kurgan-Tyube city is relatively calm.

Iskandarov Issues Warning to Warring Factions

LD2109103192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0921 GMT 21 Sep 92

[By KHOVAR NEWS AGENCY for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe September 21 TASS—The Tajik acting president warned the leaders of the warring sides in the Central Asian republic that force might be used against them in case they do not stop fighting and bloodshed during four days (from September 21 to 24). "Otherwise they will be proclaimed traitors of the nation, force will be used against them, they will be forcibly disarmed and punished according to the law", Akbarsho Iskandarov said in an appeal to the nation on Monday [21 September].

He admitted that the government and parliament failed to stabilise the situation in the republic which becomes even more complicated with each day. Iskandarov accused local authorities whose unprincipled stand is used by the conflicting sides to commit new crimes and shed more blood.

Local leaders will be severely punished for not fulfilling state laws, he warned.

The people of Tajikistan can no longer tolerate "crime and lawlessness" and demand to put an end to them. Many countries of the world also insist on an early end to the bloodshed and fratricidal war, Iskandarov stressed.

He called on all political and public organisations to cooperate with the government. The fate of the republic is in the hands of the people and only friendship, fraternity and cooperation can lead the country away from the abyss, according to the appeal.

Tension Reported on Afghan Border

LD2109083392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0627 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Dushanbe September 21 TASS—The situation in Dushanbe remains serious. Like on Saturday [19 September], shots began to be heard as darkness fell in the city on Sunday. Streets are deserted.

The exacerbation of the situation in the republic's capital forced Tajikistan's Supreme Soviet Presidium to meet in an extraordinary conference that involved heads of law enforcement agencies. Journalists were barred from the conference.

The founding conference of the Zarafshon Society in the former house of political education drew about a thousand people from the Zarafshon valley. The conference adopted an appeal to the republic's leaders, the heads of the warring groups, political parties and movements to stop bloodshed in Tajikistan and to conduct jointly the quest for a way out of the socio-political and economic crisis that plagued the republic.

Khoji Yusup, an organisation chief, explained to ITAR-TASS that the Zarafshon Society unites hundreds of thousands people and is ready to act as a force that can bring together all political parties and movements of Tajikistan. "We do not support power methods," he stressed.

The Kurgan-Tyube region continues to be the flashpoint of the conflict. Armed clashes are going on there. According to Tajik Interior Ministry's figures, clashes cause numerous casualties, including among police officers. A peace-making mission headed by Raimond Sommerein, director of the U.N. Secretariat's Department for Political Issues, flew there on Sunday. The U.N. mission that continues to familiarise itself with the socio-political situation in Tajikistan is accompanied by Tajik Deputy Prime Minister Tukhtaboy Gafarov.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1522 GMT on 18 September in a similar report adds: "A U.N. mission led by Director for Political Department of the U.N. Secretariat Raimond Sommereins arrived in Dushanbe on Friday [18 September] at the invitation of the Tajik leadership.

["Sommereins told journalists that the delegation had arrived to study the socio-political situation in Tajikistan in order to prepare a report to the U.N. secretary-general."]

According to information received from the duty officer of the 201st Russian Motorised Rifle Division, no attacks were staged on military garrisons.

The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border is tense. Clashes between Russian border guards and border violaters do not cease. In detaining one of the armed groups, servicemen of the Panj border unit injured two men, seized a machinegun, four pistols, grenades and a large amount of money.

According to figures supplied by Russian border troops stationed on Tajikistan's territory, more than 400 citizens of Tajikistan are now in Afghanistan.

Afghan Border Guards To Shoot Transgressors

LD2109093992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0813 GMT 21 Sep 92

[By KHOVAR news agency correspondent Salokhiddin Ergashev for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe September 21 TASS—Afghan border guards will open fire on transgressors crossing the border from Tajikistan, Afghan high-ranking generals told their Russian colleagues at a meeting in the Panj border checkpoint, a spokesman of the Central Asian border district said on Monday [21 September].

The Afghan generals also said that ten Tajiks taken prisoner in latest combat against armed units of Abdulatif in Afghanistan will be handed over to Tajikistan.

The Russian and Afghan border guards agreed to cooperate in promoting the implementation of the 1958 treaty on the state border, to jointly fight smugglers and quickly solve all other emerging problems, according to the source.

In the meantime, new cases of border violation were reported in the region. 33 Tajik transgressors returning back from Afghanistan surrendered without resistance to Russian border guards last Saturday.

Russian Forces Warned Against 'Hasty' Action

OW1809201492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajik National Security Committee Deputy Chairman Dzhorabek Aminov stated that "certain Russian circles" see events taking place in the republic as "a threat to their own political-military interests". Speaking on national radio, he warned that the situation in the republic "is so strained and explosive that any hasty action could lead to future escalation of the conflict. [no close quotation marks as received]

Mr. Aminov also said that "powerful military groups of Russian forces whose ranks continue to expand" exist within the territory of the sovereign and independent Tajikistan. This, he believes, significantly influences the arrangement of forces in Tajikistan, where "the geopolitical interests of many states connect".

Minister on New Approach to Foreign Policy

OW1809183392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1554 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a recent All-World Forum of Tajiks Iskandarov said foreign partners need not worry about fundamentalist tendencies taking hold in the nation's domestic and foreign policy. "IF" [INTERFAX] requested Foreign Minister Khudoyberdy Khaliknazarov to comment further on the new government's outlook.

Khaliknazarov said independent and sovereign Tajikistan will take a whole new approach to foreign policy. "The economic and political interests of the nation will be a determining factor", the foreign minister said.

The foreign minister continued, saying that the republic will begin rebuilding its state, and is learning to take its first steps and conduct its own policies on the international arena. Khaliknazarov said on top of economic difficulties, the nation has come up against a shortage of professionals.

"Tajikistan is probably the only CIS nation which does not have diplomats in other nations", Khaliknazarov said. The foreign minister pointed out that although former President Rakhman Nabiyev signed a decree to open embassies in Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, China, and the United States, that is, in those nations which have opened their own embassies in Tajikistan, this issue was put on hold after Nabiyev's resignation.

The foreign minister said the most important task is restoring economic and social ties with CIS nations. "We will build relations with other CIS nations based on trust, neighborly relations, and bilateral cooperation in all areas", Khaliknazarov said.

Khaliknazarov said concerning relations with Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, that "our relations will not be built on religious principles, as some are trying to convince the world community. Moving closer to these nations is a natural and legal process for Tajikistan, since we are close to one another not only in the geographic sense", the foreign minister said. "We are linked by several hundred years of ethnic, cultural, and spiritual roots", Khaliknazarov said.

Khaliknazarov said he is certain the republic would have greater success on the foreign political arena, if the social and political situation in the nation were not so complicated. "Instability and armed conflicts in the south of the nation are blocking the road to establishing international contacts", the foreign minister said.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Calls for Commercial Activity

PM1709134192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Sep 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Vladimir Kuleshov report: "President S. Niyazov Has Urged Democratic Party To Engage More Actively in Commerce"]

[Text] Ashgabat—Addressing a plenum of the political council of the republic's Democratic Party, Saparmurad Niyazov emphasized: "Let party workers and their families work in small enterprises, engage in commercial activity, take land into private ownership, and work on it. That is what decides the fate of society...."

"Party workers," President Niyazov, chairman of the Democratic Party, went on to exhort his subordinates, "must not only support businessmen, entrepreneurs, brokers, lessees, and other people, but also actively unite with them and penetrate these social structures. For if party workers do not take into their hands these socioeconomic structures in the new society, other forces will arise which will do this."

Niyazov Calls For Cotton Harvest Without Losses

OW1709180492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1453 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan has instructed the local governments and the leaders of state and collective farms to ensure that cotton be picked without losses and transported and received on time. The Turkmen cotton must become quite competitive on the world market, he wrote in a letter to the local leaders.

Uzbekistan's Ministry for Agriculture and Food informed IF [INTERFAX] that this year the republic is planning to pick 1.288 million tonnes of cotton, including 280,000 tonnes of cotton of the most valuable fine-fibre varieties.

Economic, Finance Ministry Changes Functions

OW1809191192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Saparmurad Niyazov met Thursday [17 September] evening with representatives of the nation's Ministry of Economics and Finance. The president's press service told "IF" [INTERFAX] that the meeting focused on the ministry's functions. The ministry will no longer handle budget distribution matters, but will execute the budget and make recommendations.

The Institute of Economics will assist the ministry in making budget recommendations; the institute is part of the Turkmen Cabinet of Ministers. The ministry "will be responsible for their recommendations".

Citizens' Letters Support Government Policy

OW1809190892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1556 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] One of Turkmenistan's central newspapers, "Turkmenskaya Iskra" has published 10 letters to the president from citizens and organizations in the last three days. In one way or another all of the letters support the president's domestic and foreign policy or its specifics - the creation of the Turkmen state, strengthening independence, restoring national and religious holidays, and so on.

"Your actions for the good of the people has brought us closer together, we do not regret living for the sacred task of strengthening Turkmenistan", a senior state tax inspector wrote. "The people of Turkmenistan willingly and gratefully perceive your efforts to create a civilized legal state, and sees in you a leader showing the way into the future", wrote the chairman of the Journalists Union. The president of the Academy of Sciences told the president that Turkmen scientists, the people of Turkmenistan, and even "friends of our Fatherland" were pleased to hear that Niyazov was awarded an international prize "from the world famous Turkish organization Eckingiler Holding".

The letters also support a journalist's proposal to rename Lenin Prospect in Ashgabat to "Saparmurad Niyazov Prospect". The letters also informed of a plan in Krasnovodsk "unanimously supported by city residents to rename the city's most beautiful square in honor of the Turkmen president".

Coin Shortage; Free Public Phone Usage Declared

OW2009133192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The use of public telephones in Ashgabat will be free till the end of the current year. The local authorities took this decision because of a shortage of 15-kopeck coins needed to make a call.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Arrives in Austria For Visits

OW1809184792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1557 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Karimov who is on the first day of a formal visit to Austria is due to hold talks with the federal chancellor and president to discuss the situation in Central Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Austria and Uzbekistan. He will also attend the local parliament followed by further talks with Austrian officials on bilateral cooperation.

The Uzbek leader will also visit Vienna's town hall, Phililps plant and take a trip to lowland Austria before flying home on Sunday.

Cooperation Talks Held

LD1909194392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1901 GMT 19 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kuzmin]

[Text] Vienna September 19 TASS—Federal President Thomas Klestil of Austria and President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan, now paying an official visit to Austria, emphasised the need for the more effective quest for opportunities to boost cooperation between the two countries.

At a meeting here, Klestil noted that Austria was prepared to assist Uzbekistan in carrying through economic reforms and in applying efficient technologies. He said vast prospects for cooperation were being opened in agriculture, in the rational utilisation of land and in creating infrastructure. Austria is also interested in invigorating cultural exchanges and expanding links between Austrian and Uzbek higher schools.

During the meeting the two emphasised that Austria and Uzbekistan will continue to aim efforts at developing fruitful ties and that the Uzbek president's visit to Austria will make it possible to take a new step in this direction. [ITAR-TASS in English at 1555 GMT on 18 September in a similar report adds: "Addressing a news conference, Karimov said there are only 12 Austrian companies out of 1300 joint ventures in Uzbekistan. Karimov added that his country expects the cooperation to widen."]

Karimov also visited the Austrian Parliament and met Parliament (Nationalrat) First President Heinz Fischer.

On Saturday [19 September], Karimov met Austrian businessmen. He held talks with heads of the Federal Economic Chamber that coordinates the operation of various enterprises and firms, met representatives of leading trade enterprises and industrial plants, joint-stock companies and banks. The meetings focused on the development of economic cooperation between the two countries, the launching of joint enterprises and financing of projects in Uzbekistan.

Representatives of the Austrian business community voiced interest in bolstering direct contacts with the Republic of Uzbekistan and primarily in raw material processing, developing agricultural production and food supply.

Visit Ends; Comment on Ties

LD2009185892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1725 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kuzmin]

[Text] Vienna, 20 Sep—The visit to Austria by President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan finished today. In the course of his stay in the Republic of Austria, he had a meeting with Austrian President Thomas Klestil and held talks with Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky and other leaders of the country and representatives of the business community. A treaty was initialed on mutual protection of capital investment between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Austria. The communique on the results of the visit points out that both sides believe the contacts and the dialogue between the leaders of both countries to be of considerable importance, and they intend to develop them further.

Austria and Uzbekistan agreed on continuing further work on concluding an agreement between the governments on trade and economic cooperation, an agreement on financing and credit guarantees for specific projects, as well as an agreement on aerial communication. It is underlined that the Austrian-Uzbek summit meeting has become an important new landmark in the establishment of relations between the two states, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Austrian Republic. This meets the fundamental interests of both states.

In an interview given to an ITAR-TASS correspondent before his departure, the president of Uzbekistan noted that his talks in Vienna had been fruitful and were characterized by goodwill and mutual respect. Uzbekistan is striving to find its place in the world and to become a bridge between Europe and Asia, utilizing its geographical and political situation in the process. Austrian leaders expressed readiness to intensify cooperation with Uzbekistan in various fields. Interesting meetings were held with representatives of business circles. Specific forms and areas for wide-ranging trade between the two states, the setting-up of joint ventures in priority sectors of the economy, and basic and advanced training of personnel were discussed at these. This applies, first and foremost, to cooperation in the processing of raw materials and cooperation in agriculture and the food industry.

The Austrian side expressed support for Uzbekistan's commitment to CSCE principles and for our state's aspiration and determination to strengthen its independence, to maintain its stability, and to secure the necessary conditions for speedy socioeconomic development and for the development of a law-based, democratic state, Islam Karimov stressed.

Karimov Discusses Afghanistan at News Conference

LD1809015992 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Russian 0300 GMT 16 Sep 92

[Text] Yesterday Uzbek President Islam Karimov had a meeting in Tashkent with representatives of the mass media. Karimov spoke about the complex situation in Afghanistan. He stressed that if peace and order is not maintained in this country the situation will not be stabilized in the whole region and that the situation in Tajikistan is an example of this. Peace in Afghanistan means peace for the whole region. Economic stability and fulfilmment of plans which have been worked out in Central Asia depend on peace in the region, he added.

When discussing the establishment of diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, Karimov said he had offically invited Afghan leader Borhanoddin Rabbani to Uzbekistan. At the news conference the president of the republic answered the journalists' questions.

Alternative National Service Law Enforced

OW1809140192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1316 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A law has been enforced in Uzbekistan introducing nonmilitary national service for members of registered organizations professing religions banning the use of arms, and for young men coming from families with no fewer than four children under 16 years old if they have a parent or brother who was disabled doing his national service.

The length of alternative service will be 18 months for men with a higher education and 24 months for everyone else.

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan, Russia's Grachev Hold Talks

LD1809121492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] According to a SNARK agency report, late last night Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who is in Armenia, met with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. The press service of the president reports today that issues relating to the status of Russian troops in Armenia were discussed at the meeting. As we know, talks between the presidents of Russia and Armenia were held on this issue in Moscow a month ago.

Grachev Meets Defense Minister

NC1809211392 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1850 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev paid a working visit to Yerevan 16-18 September. He was received by Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. Grachev also met Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sargsyan. They discussed a number of bilateral cooperation issues.

Grachev left Yerevan today.

Spokesman Proposes Sending Observers to Border

OW1809192492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian Presidential Spokesman David Shakhnazariyan directed an official statement to the leadership of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and to the Arab League and Islamic Confederation asking that observers be sent to the Armenian-Azeri border, according to the Armenian President's press service.

Official on Russia's Karabakh Role, Confederation

OW1909140592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1238 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia's Acting State Minister for Defence Vazgen Manukyan said he favoured the establishment of a professional and efficient army in Armenia. Now that a new epoch has arrived and the key role is played by those who are stronger such a measure is indispensable, he said. He also noted that a new moral atmosphere should be created in Armenia and urged his countrymen to rally around the national idea.

Speaking during a press conference in Yerevan, September 18, he said that Armenia will compromise in the Karabakh issue on the condition that "the Karabakh population keep Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) under control".

Speaking about Russia's position on the Armenian-Azeri conflict, he said that Russia "undoubtedly would like to perpetuate its influence on the Trans-Caucasian region, but has not yet made cardinal steps in this direction". It is difficult to say whether or not the Russian troops will remain in Armenia," he said.

Commenting on Nursultan Nazarbayev's initiative, Manukyan said that Armenia was ready to join any talks and consultations on confederation. Armenia may join such a union on the condition that it does not lose its independence, he said. He noted, however, that Nazarbayev's initiative may be reflecting Kazakhstan's own interests.

Nagorno-Karabakh Denies Russians Among Forces

NC1809173092 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1400 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Self-Defense Forces Headquarters categorically refutes reports by Azerbaijan and broadcast by the Russian mass media that Russian mercenaries allegedly are fighting on the side of the armed formations in Karabakh. It is interesting that those Russian servicemen which were shown on the television were not [words indistinct].

The incident is viewed as a provocation. The NKR Self-Defense Forces Headquarters has announced that no servicemen with these names are found among the Nagorno-Karabakh defense forces.

Now, about another attempt to mislead the public: Pamphlets recently began appearing in a number of southern Russian cities signed by the so-called Armenian Initiative Group of Northern Caucasus. The pamphlets put forth absurd Armenian land demands from Russia in connection with the Nagorno-Karabakh problem.

It is not difficult to surmise who is (?behind) this dirty work and what goals are being pursued.

Committee Rejects Claim on Captured Towns

OW2009165992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1541 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The State Defense Committee of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic has today dismissed as untrue the Azeri Defense Ministry's report to the effect that Azeri forces captured about 15 villages in the Lachin District of Azerbaijan and the Shusha District of Nagorno-Karabakh.

According to the Defense Committee, the Azeri forces which were trying to get to the Lachin Corridor in the past 24 hours have been stopped about 12 km away from it and thrown back with 25 soldiers killed. Three men were killed and five wounded on the Armenian side.

This morning, the Defense Committee reports, the Azeris made another attack in the vicinity of the Lachin Corridor, losing, according to preliminary reports, at least 70 men.

The general staff of the Armenian Self-Defense Forces in Shusha has also rejected the information to the effect that the Azeris have demanded that the Armenian forces and the population leave the town within two days. "There are no Azeri forces anywhere near the town, so there has naturally been no fighting," staff officers said.

The Defense Committee also claims that 250 Azeri servicemen have been killed in fighting in Martuni District and at least 100 in Askeran District in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian losses being much less serious. According to the Committee, most of the Azeris who have been killed were young men of no older than 20. There is evidence that many of them were taking drugs.

Government Offers Jobs to Russian Officers

PM2109101592 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Sep 92 p 2

[Aleksandr Iskandaryan report: "Specialist Skill in Short Supply: Russian Officers Offered Work in Karabakh"]

[Text] Whereas in the "peaceful" republics of the former USSR Russian officers are simply being told to get out, in those republics where war is going on people are, on the contrary, trying to persuade them to stay. Of course, officers' specialist skills are most scarce in those countries. By all accounts Armenia is setting about creating and strengthening its own army in real earnest. This was to be expected: The republic is waging an undeclared war with Azerbaijan, and there are constant clashes on the borders. The war in Karabakh is almost official and has recently moved to a technically higher level. Furthermore, under the conventional armed forces in Europe treaty signed by the CIS members in Tashkent 15 May this year, Armenia is entitled to a considerable quantity of modern combat hardware. The need for professional soldiers has become acute: The hastily trained Armenian volunteers do not know how to operate tanks, helicopters, and artillery.

In a drive to recruit military specialists into its army, Armenia is trying not only to enlist ethnic Armenians who used to be career soldiers in the former Soviet Army but also to employ officers, by no means all Armenians, serving in the Russian Armed Forces on Armenia's territory. Recently Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan appealed to the officers of the 7th Army, stationed on Armenia's territory. He urged the officers not to leave if the 7th Army is withdrawn from Armenian territory but to serve in the Armenian army that is being formed. The minister promised the servicemen that they would retain their social benefits, that their pay would be as much as in the CIS Joint Armed Forces, and that they would be given apartments in 7-8 months which would become their property after 3 years. He also promised them "interesting work." To the outsider it may seem that the 7th Army officers, for the most part ethnic Slavs, are hardly likely to accept this service. But given the officers' general lack of amenities and the fact that troops, as a rule, are withdrawn to "virgin lands" ["v chistoye pole"], for many there will be no other work.

U.S. Armenian Appointed Presidential Adviser

LD1909161492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1149 GMT 19 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan September 19 TASS—Armenian American Nikol Sakhgaldyan [name as received], 47, Dr. of Science, a political scientist, has become an adviser to President Levon Ter-Petrosyan of Armenia. A decree to this effect was published here on Saturday [19 September].

Shakhgaldyan was born in Tehran. He graduated from the University of Colombia in New York in 1979, a spokesman at the press service of the republican president told ITAR-TASS. Shakhgaldyan specialises in contemporary history, politics and economics of Middle East countries and has authored a number of books and articles on the subject.

Along with scientific and pedagogical activities, Shakhgaldyan "advised top U.S. Government authorities", points out a brief biography published here.

Another representative of the Armenia diaspora abroad, Zhirair Liparityan [name as received], is an adviser to the president of Armenia on political analysis.

Two representatives of the Armenian diaspora are members of the Armenian Government—Raffi Hovannisian, minister of foreign affairs, and Sepuh Tashchyan, minister of the power industry and fuel.

Azerbaijan

Finance Minister Signs IMF Agreement

LD1809210292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2041 GMT 18 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington, 13 Sep—Azerbaijan has become a member of the International Monetary Fund. On 18 September, Finance Minister B. Karayev, who is here, signed the articles of the IMF, to which 170 of the world's countries belong. The Fund's Council of Directors has fixed the initial quota for Azerbaijan at approximately 112 million dollars.

Elchibey Appoints New Deputy Internal Ministers

NC1809205492 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] President Abulfaz Elchibey has issued a decree appointing Kudret Shyukyur ogly Pashayev and [name indistinct] Tofik ogly Aliyev as deputy ministers of internal affairs.

Elchibey Meets Press; Views Current Situation

LD2009171792

[Editorial Report] Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian at 1115 GMT on 20 September carries a recorded 45-minute "Chief Editors' Club" program in which Azerbaijan President Abulfaz Elchibey meets the press.

Igor Golembiovskiy of IZVESTIYA begins by asking Elchibey if there is a way out of the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis. Elchibey replies: "I have commented on this problem several times, both in our own republican press and in the foreign press. It seems to me that resolving this problem is not difficult. First, there should be a cease-fire along the entire length of the Azerbaijani-Armenian border. Preferably, it should be introduced step-by-step, from north to south or from south to north, along the entire border, with the proviso that observation posts will be established. This will be possible if both sides give guarantees.

"In the same way, a cease-fire can be set up in Nagorno-Karabakh. However, the forces behind the armed formations in Nagorno-Karabakh must declare that we are commanding them. As president, I can call on all forces to cease fire and they will obey me. All forces. But let all the forces fighting against us be also addressed. Let them take responsibility for a cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh. There is no other way to resolve this issue. We ceased firing. On the second day in Lachin, 20 women, old people and children were annihilated by Armenia. We asked why. After all, there is a cease-fire. We were told: Possibly these were some kind of armed formations deployed in the forests of Nagorno-Karabakh. We are not responsible for them. We do not bear responsibility for them. If this is the case, if there are forces which are not subordinate to the order of the Armenian president regarding a cease-fire, then we will only deal with those who will be subordinate to him.

"It is possible to stop firing. Consequently, in various rayons we can gradually stop the firing. First, on the borders between Armenia and Azerbaijan, then in Karabakh and in various populated areas. This could be monitored by observers, both from Moscow and from Kazakhstan, as well as from Britain and Georgia. After all, it is not difficult to find observers. The observers will sit on the borders and observe if arms have moved from here or not, if there has been firing here or not, or if only humanitarian cargoes have passed through.

"The world is concerned. But it seems to me that not even world public opinion is paying enough attention to the events taking place in the Transcaucasus. Whether it is Bush or Yeltsin, it seems to me that they are taking a somewhat episodic interest in this problem. One can understand them. Of course, they have global state problems in their countries. But it seems to me that it is possible to devote more attention to the Transcaucasus. If, let's say, several leaders of major states, such as Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Kravchuk, Mr. Mitterrand, Mr. Bush, and Suleyman Demirel monitor [vozmut pod kontrol] events taking place here. If they keep all this under constant observation, we could resolve all this in one week through CSCE channels," Elbichey says.

IZVESTIYA's Golembiovskiy thanks the president for this reply and then asks: "I just want to reiterate what I think is a very important thing. I understand that Azerbaijan and its president are ready to accept the services, or the intermediary role, of those states, those people you have just mentioned?"

Elchibey replies that these states should only act through the mechanism of the CSCE. He continues: "The people who I mentioned should act through the mechanism of the CSCE so that tomorrow neither Petrosyan or myself can retract our signatures. After all, we signed such treaties in Tehran and then immediately after that, Armenia seized Khodzhali and Shusha and then Lachin. It is no good if we sign a document and the war continues. People must believe that if signatures are written, then standing behind them are not simply Abulfaz and Ter-Petrosyan, but that both Bush and Yeltsin and the rest are acting as guarantors behind these signatures through the CSCE mechanism."

Next, Vladislav Fronin of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA then asks if Azerbaijan will join the CIS. Elchibey replies: "No. I cannot speak for our parliament at the moment, but personally I am against this, until such time as Azerbaijan becomes an independent state. What we have at the moment is formal independence. What do we mean when we talk about an independent state? History has taught us what it means. The attributes of independence are a national currency, an army for defense and a gold reserve. When we have these things we will be an independent state. But at the moment we don't have these things. We don't have a state. Our border is not guarded. We do not yet have an army capable of protecting Azerbaijan. We have only just begun issuing our own national currency. We do not know how it will survive competition with the Russian ruble. We do not have a gold reserve. When we came to power in Azerbaijan, we did not have even the rudiments of this. We did not have a single kilogram of gold. So, how can one say that we are independent at the moment?

"The same applies to Kazakhstan. In my view, neither Kazakhstan or Uzbekistan or the other states in the CIS are independent yet, since they do not have these attributes. No mechanism has yet been established in the CIS. Maybe I am speaking somewhat brusquely. Maybe

I do not need to take this risk. Out of fear, some people think we should join the CIS. They fear that we might, supposedly, be forced by some kind of military intervention into joining the CIS. Others say that we should not join the CIS. There are states that are called independent, but which are still ruled by that same communist party, by the renamed communist party, by the same leaders. Mechanisms must be worked out in the CIS. This should not be imposed from above. This was a system of small—this was a totalitarian system consisting of small, totalitarian states. Such processes must take place within these states themselves. Once this has happened, we can talk about mechanisms similar to the CIS. Just three days after the proclamation of the CIS, I said that this would not last long. The CIS has lasted too long, for some reason. No, it won't last long."

Following a question from TRUD's Aleksandr Potapov about economic reform issues in Azerbaijan, Len Karpinskiy of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI asks about Elchibey's political philosophy and his model of society.

Elchibey replies that he has pondered these issues. "In 1975, when I was sentenced, and then in my articles and speeches, I said that the totalitarian system would collapse. I do not want to talk about some new system now. I could refer to the Swiss model now, but I would like Azerbaijan to have a society more like the European societies, where people live better, where human rights are observed."

Referring to the question from TRUD, Elchibey says: "Azerbaijan's situation is difficult, because Azerbaijan was very closely linked with the USSR as far as the economy is concerned. It is rather difficult to define the aspects here. In the first place, we have the mafia links, the shadow economy. Just try to monitor where Azerbaijani oil is going. Azerbaijan produces so much oil. But, just imagine, currently, let's say, Azerbaijan has fuel for only five days. The system has collapsed. It is necessary to strengthen borders, to set up a customs service and to establish the strictest possible control over what is being taken out of the republic and to define, on this basis, what it is possible to take out. It is necessary to organize a statistical service, because there are no statistics in Azerbaijan. It is no secret to anyone that our statistics were previously underpinned by exaggerated reports. Once this problem has been resolved, it will be possible for us to talk of what is possible for us, about our potential."

Elchibey goes on to say that 200,000 refugees, out of 500,000, have jobs. He says the country must have a state system that deals with this issue. He says he thinks the republic's economy will stabilize within a year, and that the country has the potential to do this. The country's biggest problem, Elchibey adds, is the war with Armenia. Both republics spend between 25 and 30 million rubles a day on military requirements. The war, he acknowledges, is a very large impediment. If the war stops, it will be easy to extricate the country from the current situation. If the economic situation continues, half the population will emigrate from both republics, due to the war. People are worried about the war.

Elchibey then adds that the country has 1.4 million unemployed workers, most of them housewives. In addition, there are seasonally unemployed people. While some of these people work just in the summer, he argues that there is no hunger or crisis. The government, Elchibey adds, wants to give them assistance and a minimum wage.

PRAVDA's Gennadiy Seleznev asks about the upcoming elections. Elchibey replies: "I will be president for five years. I would like the popular front to win. Let us have four or five parties engaged in political struggle. We have the popular front—members are not members of any parties. We have the Musawat Party. We have the National Independence Party. These, then, are the three main political forces in our country. The outcome depends on our electoral system. We should hold a referendum to choose, say, the American model or the Turkish model. If we have no parliament, the situation may become unstable."

Vitaliy Tretyakov of NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA asks about Azerbaijan's foreign policy and about Elchibey's appraisal of Russia's policy in the region.

Elchibey replies: "We are an independent state. We will attempt to establish direct links with other countries. We will observe the principles of peaceful existence. It is our aim to reach the level of the most advanced European states. Israel, the United States and Japan are helping us with new technologies. We intend to make use of these ties to improve our economy.

"As far as Russia is concerned, we think it will be Azerbaijan's closest economic partner. While it may be necessary for us to establish new links with other states, we already have these relations with Russia. Relations between Russia and Azerbaijan will be built on absolutely mutually advantageous conditions and principles. I have spoken to Mr. Yeltsin. We have a lot of common objectives. For example, we are resolving questions of the former Soviet-Iranian border together. We have set up combined supervision. As far as the border with Russia is concerned, we do not want to set up state border conditions. I can give you another example. In Azerbaijan, there is quite a large radar station. This radar station is so powerful that both Russia and the United States use its potential. There is the common Caspian basin. We have traditional trade links. We must not allow the rupture of the scientific ties of our scientific cadres. After all, Russian and Azerbaijani scientists have been working together for quite a long time, Moscow scientists in Baku and Baku scientists in Moscow. If we break these ties, we will not be able to restore them for decades. There is one way out, that of our mutual advantage.

"As far as Russia's role in the region is concerned, this is quite complex. In Russia, it seems to me, a common political line has not yet emerged. There are many political groups whose line predominates at one time or another. This has all happened before. For example, Gorbachev wanted to pursue one line in Karabakh. It turned out that the KGB pursued a totally different line. And who is now determining Russia's policy and position on the Transcaucasus? It is quite difficult to pin down. Then, it suddenly turns out that there are several groups, let's say, in the Russian leadership itself fighting to impose this or that line. We are sometimes told not to hurry because the situation can change in Russia. Let's say, for instance, Volskiy, who does not like Azerbaijan, comes to power, or a Russian comes to power who will help us. You know, these rumors are being quite strongly whipped up among the public. They are creating some apprehension about where events may turn in Russia and how the Russian position on Azerbaijan may change."

Igor Golembiovskiy of IZVESTIYA says that on 26 September the president will have been in office for 100 days. He asks: We know you are a democrat. Are you confident that Azerbaijan is safe from totalitarianism returning as a system? Is democracy strong here?

Elchibey replies: "I regard this problem as a historian. Let us approach the issue from the viewpoint of historical philosophy. I think we will attain the West European democratic model in the near future. Democratic victory is inevitable. Any hitches will be temporary. It is our task to ensure that this process is smooth. No force can stop it."

Golembiovskiy then thanks the president for an interesting meeting. Elchibey says he is grateful for the interview. He concludes: "I do not yet feel like a real president. I came from the streets, where I demanded democracy at rallies. We must learn democracy."

Foreign Ministry Briefing Highlights Islamic Aid

NC1809203092 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Service held a news conference today about efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Armenian-Azerbaijani dispute, the results of the Alma-Ata talks, Azerbaijan's participation in the extraordinary session of the Council of Europe and the meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization in Istanbul. It was noted that the first two diplomatic meetings failed to produce specific results because of the Armenian delegation's disruptive activities. It also was noted that peaceful initiatives will be maintained and that the world is inclined to regard Azerbaijan's approach as peaceful and practical. Regarding the outcome of the meetings in Istanoul, the participants said that the Islamic Development Bank [IDB] plans to allocate funds for the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union. Considering the difference between the administrations in the said republics, however, the IDB is inclined to assist Azerbaijan first.

The Foreign Ministry also replied to the journalists' questions.

Ministry Expels Russian Agents; Officials Fired

NC1709133292 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1045 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] Baku, Sep 17 (ASSA-IRADA)—62 Russian Secret Service agents have been deported from Azerbaijan for the last 5 months. Popular Front's "AZADLIG" newspaper reports referring to Azeri Interior Minister Iskender Gamidov. Those reported are mostly Russian intelligence officers. Iskender Gamidov also said 3,500 Azeri Interior Ministry men have been fired from the ministry during the same period for violations.

Defense Ministry Reports Army's New Offensive

NC1909185192 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] The Azerbaijan Defense Ministry Analytical Information Center has disclosed the following:

The Azerbaijan Armed Forces launched an auspicious operation to completely clear the Armenian banditry groups from Karabakh territory yesterday. Moving together with the [words indistinct] and the special military units, the 2d Army units liberated Ferrach, Nuraddin, (Talafaly), [placename indistinct], Ayibazary, Ipek Bir, Ipek Iki, and Tyrmanlar in the northern part of Lachinskiy Rayon from enemy occupation. Our victorious military units crossed the Karabakh Mountains unexpectedly and captured the Ipek Dagy, Sarybaba, (Khedzhabash), (Gyurupyaly), and other heights and hoisted Azerbaijan's flag in the Khanably, Dzhemiller, Kanlykaya, Imankulular, Almaskulular, and Zamankulular localities in Shushinskiy Rayon.

Furthermore, our fighters destroyed three convoys of trucks near [placename indistinct]. The trucks were loaded with valuable possessions and were traveling to Armenia. They also destroyed another convoy trying to go from Goris to Shusha. A group of armed Armenians who had gathered in (Deykhan) were attacked and eliminated.

The Azerbaijan National Army units in Agdamskiy, Fizulinskiy, and Agdere [Mardakertskiy] Rayons also are engaged in combat operations at present. Our units on the Agdamskiy battlefront are advancing toward Noragyukh and [placename indistinct] in Khodzhaly Rayon. Our units, which have been carrying out successful combat operations in the direction of Fizuli, have captured several of the enemy's firing positions.

The enemy gradually is becoming more ferocious as a result of [words indistinct]. Agdam and Sarydzhaly in Agdamskiy Rayon were intensively fired on the previous night. The fire was returned and the enemy positions were silenced.

Our border areas are being uninterruptedly fired on from Armenia. Ferakhly in Kazakhskiy Rayon, Shyukheybat in Tauzskiy Rayon, and Seytab and Novlu in Kubatlinskiy Rayon were fired on last night. Several people were wounded in Tauzskiy Rayon.

Our heroic fighters have obstructed an enemy attack in the direction of Kazakhskiy Rayon. They killed five Armenian bandits in the clashes.

Lachin Corridor Closed; 'Large-Scale War' Likely

LD1909141192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Text] Combat operations are continuing in Nagorno-Karabakh. According to a report by the TURAN agency, the Azerbaijani Armed Forces yesterday liberated 12 settlements and reached the town of Shusha. Thus, Azerbaijan virtually has reestablished control over these territories. Armed formations have closed the Lachin corridor and locked the 20,000-strong Armenian expeditionary corps inside Nagorno-Karabakh.

To all appearances, this agency reports, Armenia will begin decisive operations along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, which will mean the start of a large-scale war in the region.

Armenians Given 'Two-Day Period' To Withdraw

LD2009123492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Text] The command of Azerbaijan's Karabakh group of forces has issued an ultimatum to the command of the Armenian expeditionary corps, demanding that it withdraw all of its formations from Azerbaijan within a two-day period, the TURAN agency reports. If this is not carried out, all responsibility for the further course of events lies on the Armenian side, the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry has warned.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 1217 GMT on 20 September, citing AZERINFORM news agency, adds that the ultimatum promises that during the two-day period the Armenian forces "are guaranteed an unobstructed retreat along the Lachin corridor."]

Armenian-Held Villages Reportedly Liberated

LD1909190992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1826 GMT 19 Sep 92

[By AZERINFORM-ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Baku September 19 TASS—Azerbaijan's forces continue to liberate Azerbaijani villages earlier seized by Armenian Armed Forces. They won back about 15 villages in the Lachin and Shusha Districts on Friday, a spokesman in the republic's Defence Ministry told AZERINFORM.

The district centre of Agdam and Sarydzhaly village were shelled from the side of Armenia's Askeran District last night. Azerbajani forces neutralised Armenians' weapons emplacements by retaliatory actions. Azerbaijani villages in Tauzsky, Kubatlinsky and Kazakh Districts that border on Armenia continue to be pounded.

The most savage fighting was reported in the direction of Kazakh District. According to the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry, the Armenian side sustained major losses in men.

'Dozens' Reportedly Die in Armenian Air Attack

LD2009120592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1132 GMT 20 Sep 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Baku, 20 Sep—Three Armenian Armed Forces Mi-24 helicopters yesterday subjected the Azerbaijani villages of Soyugbulag, Sansar, and Mais in the Lachin District to mass bombardment. The AZERINFORM agency, citing information from the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry, today reported that dozens of people were killed as a result of the bombardment. Homes, schools, and kindergartens were destroyed. The number of fatalities and injuries is still being clarified.

Baku Values CSCE for Ending Karabakh Conflict

OW1809195792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1808 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Azerbaijan values the strengthening of CSCE as a priority for ending the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh and believes the process of resolving the conflict should continue within a general European framework. This statement was made Friday [18 September] in Baku by Azeri Foreign Ministry press service head Rovshan Dzhamshidov.

Concerning results gained at meetings of a trilateral Armenian, Azeri and Kazakh task force September 15-16 to prepare for a top-level meeting, Mr. Dzhamshidov noted that a draft of a declaration which provides for three fundamental proposals was prepared by Kazakh initiative.

Firstly, Armenia and Azerbaijan recognize that they are responsible for ending the conflict in Karabakh and will establish diplomatic relations. The sides will then recognize the presence of national minority problems—Armenians in Azerbaijan and Azeris in Armenia.

The press service head noted that Armenia refused to discuss the proposed Alma-Ata declaration. This, he said, shows that Yerevan "is only pretending to participate in the peace process with the aim of receiving humanitarian aid from Alma-Ata. [no close quotation marks as received]

Poll: Country's Mood Improving Under Elchibey

OW1809182992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1548 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Report prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature—following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Baku Center for Sociological Studies (Surgu) has held an opinion poll to evaluate the first 100 days since Elchibey was elected president of Azerbaijan. Asked how their mood has changed over the past three months, 38.5 per cent of the respondents said that it has improved, 20.3 per cent said that it has not changed at all, 25.6 per cent complained that they were disappointed and 15.5 of the respondents found it difficult to say anything on the score.

The second question was about the quality of the president's work in the key areas. As many as 61.4 per cent of the respondents positively assess the president's military policy; 52.8 per cent welcome the president's moves in the world arena. The Elchibey administration's approach to public education is approved by 45.4 per cent of those polled, to state construction - by 41.7 per cent, to economy - by 48.3 per cent, to the personnel policy - by 44 per cent, to human rights and security of the citizens - by 45.2 per cent and to social policy - by 32.5 per cent of the respondents.

Georgia

Reportage Highlights Continued Unrest in Abkhazia

Shevardnadze Criticizes Russia, Praises UN

LD1809194892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1900 GMT 18 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Sep—Eduard Shevardnadze spoke on the situation in Abkhazia at a meeting of the Georgian State Council held in Tbilisi today. The press center of Georgia's permament misssion in Moscow faxed a report to ITAR-TASS revealing that the State Council chairman stressed that the main aim of his visit to Abkhazia was to meet members of the tripartite monitoring commission. Unfortunately, the Russian representatives were not able to fly out from Sochi due to bad weather. Eduard Shevardnadze expressed in a telephone talk with them his disappointment with the intensity of their contacts with the Georgian and Abkhaz members of the commission which in his opinion prevents the distribution of objective information about the situation in the autonomous republic.

Eduard Shevardnadze stressed the unacceptability of the fact that the Russian members of the commission picked out Gadauta as their stopover. This is giving the activity of the commission an ambigious character, is causing rumors, and is damaging its reputation. The commission should work in Sukhumi, he pointed out.

The Georgian State Council chairman expressed his worry in connection with the creation of new Abkhaz and mercenary armed formations in the Gagra and Gudauta zone which has led to the necessity of strengthening positions near Gagra. At the same time he highly assessed the activity of the UN mission which has arrived in Georgia to render assistance for a peaceful solution to the conflict in Abkhazia.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1806 GMT on 18 September adds the following: "Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze, after visiting the Abkhazian capitol of Sukhumi, stated at a State Council session in Tbilisi Friday that the situation in the republic 'has achieved a certain level of stability.' However, he said 'this appears to be more of a temporary phenomenon, since the tension is quite perceptible, and there are forces who are capable of incensing the situation.'

["Shevardnadze expressed his dissatisfaction with what he considers the ineffectiveness of the operations of the three-way commission on control and inspection in Abkhazia which 'has no objective information.'

["Shevardnadze stressed that in the Pitsunda region the Abkhazian side has currently concentrated up to 1500 armed persons, including fighters from Northern Caucasia. In addition, he said that 6 battalions from local draftees and reserve personnel, including tanks and battalions for railway protection are gathering on the territory of the autonomous republic."]

Abkhaz Opposition Seeks Russian Support

LD1809224492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1810 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Events in Abkhazia have been a subject for discussion at more than one news conference. Many decisions have already been made, but the problem still remains unsolved. Yet another news conference devoted to the situation in the region was held at the Moscow City Soviet on 18 September. Our special correspondent Margarita Lyange reports.

[Lyange] The Moscow City Soviet commission for nationalities policy and Moscow's (Nartaa) Society of Abkhaz Culture were the organizers of the news conference. Abkhaz Supreme Soviet deputies took part in the conversation with journalists. According to them, the real cause of aggression by the Georgian State Council was Abkhazia's desire to sign something similar to the Federation Treaty with Tbilisi. Secession from Georgia was never under discussion. Examples were given of mass violations of human rights of ethnic minorities in Abkhazia by State Council troops. It was noted that as a result, a large number of refugees are gathering in southern regions of Russia. But the role of the Russian Federation in the settlement of the conflict was the main topic under discussion. Here is the opinion of Zurab

Achba, an Abkhaz Supreme Soviet deputy and deputy chairman of the commission for legal issues.

[Begin Achba recording] The fate to play the leading and stabilizing role in the Caucasus is predetermined for Russia because after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, when there are no state borders and when state life in some republics, like Georgia, is still in the process of being made, some force should keep society from violence and interethnic conflict. This role should be performed by Russia. And how does she perform it? Every time she is late. For example, at present Russia is worried by a very big involvement of mountain peoples in this conflict. But this was caused by the fact that during a long period Russia itself did not react to the events in Abkhazia in any way, regarding it as Georgia's internal affairs when in no way could it be regarded as Georgia's internal affairs. In the first place, because human rights were violated and, second, there are as many Abkhaz people there as there are Russians there. At present Russia is on trial before the Caucasian peoples. Depending on which side Russia takes—the side of justice, the side of the weak, these things are of great importance to peoples' psychology in the Caucasus, you know—the attitude to Russia on the part of the peoples of the northern Caucasus, as well as the southern regions of Russia and the Cossacks, will be determined. I think, due to Russia's ambiguous position, an estrangement of the mountain people from Russian policy and from Russia itself is beginning. [end recording]

Ministry: Russia 'Distorting' Situation

LD1809174792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1733 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Moscow September 18 TASS—Georgian Ministry of Defence on Friday [18 September] published a statement which blames Russia of distorting the real situation around Abkhazia. The statement accuses Russia of revealing information that Georgia is using the recently acquired Russian weaponry against Abkhazia. "Such comments distort the truth, facilitate the worsening of the situation and hamper the difficult stabilisation process which began in Abkhazia," the statement says.

Abkhazia Urges World To Tame 'Aggressor'

OW1809191892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press-centre of Abkhazia's Plenipotentiary representative in Russia has appealed to the world community to take "active measures to tame the (Georgian) aggressor". The press-centre's statement, which was issued in Moscow on Friday [18 September], remarked that "Georgian State Council troops have once again, in violation of the cease-fire agreements which had been reached, subjected peaceful towns and settlements to fierce shelling on September 17th." The town of Tkvarcheli, in the Ochamchira region of Abkhazia, came under particularly heavy fire.

"All of these actions, which have caused the heavy suffering of innocent people", the statement went on, "testify to the fact that the Georgian leadership and State Council Chairman E. Shevardnadze himself are determined to end the conflict by warlike measures".

UN Mission Places Hopes on Shevardnadze

OW1809192192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The UN mission which visited Abkhazia Thursday [17 September] placed its hopes on Eduard Shevardnadze for ending the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. The mission negatively appraised the presence in the republic of members of the Confederation of Caucasian Mountain People and characterized their actions as international terrorism. This statement was made by the personal representative of the UN General Secretary and Director of the European Department on Political Questions, Gustave Faissel, during a meeting in Tbilisi Friday with Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze.

According to Mr. Faissel, the UN Security Council supports the agreement reached in Moscow for ending the conflict. The agreement provides for the preservation of Georgian territorial integrity.

The UN representative also said a permanent UN representative office would open in Tbilisi in the near future.

Population Leaving Sukhumi 'in Panic'

OW1909133292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1237 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press center of the Abkhazian Provisional Administration Committee informed IF [INTERFAX] that the Abkhazian population has been leaving Sukhumi in panic since Saturday [19 September] morning. The massive exodus is believed to have been caused by rumors about a possible large-scale attack by Abkhazian armed formations.

Georgia's intelligence-gathering bureau reports that the Abkhazian formations have been changing their dislocation [word as received] lately.

According to the Georgian State Council, 1,500 armed men, among them North Caucasian militants, have concentrated in the region of Pitsunda.

Meanwhile, the press center of the Abkhazian Provisional Administration Committee reports that last night was quiet in Sukhumi and its suburbs. Individual exchanges of fire were only registered near the village of Kolkhida in a Gagra suburb. Two Georgian guards were wounded.

Official Accuses Abkhazia of Violating Accords

OW1909143292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1238 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgia's Deputy Defence Minister Nodar Georgadze accused Abkhazia of violating the Moscow and Sukhumi agreements on cease-fire and on the removal of the troops from the conflict zone. He said that the Abkhazian leaders had lost control over their paramilitary formations.

According to his sources, the Abkhazian, Chechen and Ossetian groupings are operating quite autonomously in Abkhazia. The mercenaries insist that the Abkhazian leaders give them the large reward promised to them. A sum of about several million rubles is involved, he said. The Abkhazian side has no such sum, he added.

As far as the disengagement on the river Gumista goes, I can state with confidence that the Abkhazian forces have not left their positions, said Georgadze. Moreover, these formations have even moved forward, he said.

Military Official Denies Helicopter Attacks

OW1909142992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1242 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy CinC [commander in chief] of the Trans-Caucasian Military District Gen. Sufiyan Beppayev in an interview for INTERFAX denied the Russian mass media report according to which Georgian combat helicopters subjected to fire attacks the town of Tkvarcheli in Abkhasia's Ochamir district. He characterized as "inconsistent" the assertions that Georgian helicopters were firing at Russian troops stationed on the Georgian territory.

In his words, "with the advent to power of the new Georgian administration (headed by Eduard Shevardnadze—IF [INTERFAX]), the Russian troops stationed in Georgia were no longer branded as "occupational forces" and the command of the trans-Caucasian Military District established normal relations with the Georgian government. "We are addressing all the problems jointly," Gen. Beppayev said, referring to the Georgian government.

The CinC confirmed the position of the military district's command as regards preservation of "complete neutrality and non-interference in the internal affairs of the Georgian Republic".

Minister Denies Forces Fired on 'Kometa'

MK1809132592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Sep 92 p 2

[Tengiz Pachkoriya report under "In Brief" rubric: "Georgian Defense Ministry Denies Russian Defense Ministry Information"]

[Text] Russia's Defense Ministry issued a statement 17 September on "irrefutable proof" in its possession that the passenger-carrying Kometa traveling between between Batumi and Sochi 27 August was fired on "on the instructions of the Georgian authorities."

Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani said in conversation with your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that he categorically objects to the accusation leveled at the Georgian side by the Russian Defense Ministry. Responding to the Russian Defense Ministry statement circulated yesterday by the mass media—which Kitovani has not seen, incidentally—the Georgian defense minister remarked that his department possesses irrefutable proof and eyewitness accounts that the helicopter which fired on the vessel subsequently flew off in the direction of Sochi; that is, Russia. Tengiz Kitovani called "an absolute lie" the information claiming that Georgian helicopters are bombing those regions of Abkhazia that are densely populated by Russian-speaking inhabitants. The defense minister assumed that information such as this, which does not conform to reality, emanates from anti-Georgian sources and aims to exacerbate relations between Georgia and Russia. Kitovani also rejected the assertion by the Russian Defense Ministry that the Georgian side has amassed a large quantity of aerial bombs on Sukhumi Airfield. "This cannot be," the Georgian defense minister said, without, however, substantiating his claim in any way.

Abkhazians Reportedly Shoot Down Helicopter

OW1909153992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1519 GMT 19 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Abkhazia's State Defence Committee reports that on Friday [18 September] and Saturday [19 September] Georgian forces shelled the positions of the Abkhazian homeguard in the Gagra-Bzyb direction. One member of the homeguard was killed.

Chief of this committee's staff Sultan Sosnaliyev said that the Abkhazian State Council has 6-8 Grad launchers and yesterday received ammunition from Sukhumi. He also said that a military helicopter of the State Council which was barraging the positions was shot down in the Gagra-Bzyb direction from an Abkhazian large- caliber sub-machine-gun. The helicopter made a forced landing near a camping and went aflame. Through binoculars the

Abkhazian militants could see the crew leave the helicopter, the State Defence Committee's headquarters report.

Forces Continue To Concentrate in Gagra

LD1909221192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 19 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] According to NEGA, intensive shooting was observed last night in the Gagra region from the direction of Kolkhida. Our correspondent reports from there.

[Begin correspondent Bzhaniya recording] Politicians continue to meet; the military holds talks, but clashes are not subsiding in Abkhazia. It is difficult to count how many cease-fire protocols have been signed, but not one of them has been implemented. Though it has become possible to disengage the sides confronting each other at the River Gumista, intensive shooting continues in the Gagra-Bzyb area. [Video shows people in combat uniform; destroyed building; hills and valley]

[Unidentified man in uniform] The concentration of forces is continuing in the Gagra zone. There are two infantry fighting vehicles and two armored personnel carriers on the other side of this hill, and a tank is moving from here to there from time to time. One of their infantry fighting vehicles has been deployed over there on another hill.

[Bzhaniya] Members of the Russian Federation side of the monitoring and inspection commission are present at combat positions.

Eduard Shevardnadze left Sukhumi without having met Vladislav Ardzinba. Speaking to the Georgian community in Abkhazia, he expressed his extreme dissatisfaction with the work of his subordinates in the republic, but there was not a single word spoken about a cease-fire. That is why life is continuing in Abkhazia from battle to battle. [end recording]

Russian, Abkhazian Observers Reportedly Arrested

OW2009165492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1542 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Abkhazian parliament's press center, Georgians have today arrested Russian and Abkhazian military observers, members of the trilateral monitoring commission, on the bridge over the Gumista River by the village of Lower Eshera near Sukhumi.

The Russian observers were released a short while later, whereas the Abkhazian ones, including their chief, Col. Giviy Agrba, were taken away. No information has so far been given on their present whereabouts.

According to the Abkhazian intelligence and information bureau, the Abkhazians are building up their combat potential. There have been reports to the effect that boats keep arriving in Gudauta from the vicinity of Adler bringing weapons and militiamen from the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples.

According to Georgian intelligence, the number of boats heading for Gudauta has trebled over the last few days. In addition to that, aircraft belonging neither to Georgia nor to Russia have been making flights over Abkhazian territory.

The press center of the Georgian embassy in Moscow has reported that local people held a meeting in Gagra today, protesting against "the violence and outrages committed in the suburbs by armed Abkhazian groups and commandos from the Confederation of Caucasian Peoples." The protesters demanded to be given weapons to defend their families.

Kitovani Threatens To Use 'Major Force'

MK2009142592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Sep 92 p 3

[Nodar Broladze and Tengiz Pachkoriya reports under "Georgia" rubric and general headline: "Kitovani Prepared To Resolve 'Gudauta Problem' Within 10 Days, if Confederation of Caucasus Mountain Peoples Troops Do Not Leave Abkhazia by Then"]

[Text] [Broladze] Georgian Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani believes that "Ardzinba's changeable position toward Georgia has manifested itself again" during the talks in Adler. Kitovani has resolutely put down an attempt by the Abkhaz side to obtain strategic positions on the pretext of obtaining a more favorable opportunity to monitor the situation. Judging by what the defense minister said, the talks in Adler frayed his nerves fairly badly. "We gave them 10 days in order for them, the Abkhazians, to send all the hired killers home," Kitovani said. "If they do not carry out this demand by the specified deadline, they should not complain about what happens. In that event, the Georgian side reserves the right to use force, and indeed major force. We have assured our Abkhaz 'comrades' that the National Army of Georgia, which has demonstrated admirable self-control during all this time, will carry out its task properly.... If in 10 days' time we discover a single mercenary, woe betide them all!" Those who know Kitovani well know that these are not empty threats. The defense minister's opinion on the need to begin serious military actions if the conditions of the Adler meeting are not met is shared by all the representatives of the top Georgian leadership. At the same time, possible steps by the Confederation of Caucasus Mountain Peoples, including an air attack from Groznyy, where around 150 L-29 and L-39 trainer aircraft with ammunition are standing at Khankal airfield, and which Colonel Valery Simonov, chief of intelligence in the separate air defense army, has warned about, are also being taken into account. State Council Deputy Chairman Jaba Ioseliani met with Yevgeniy Ivolgin, commander of one of the air defense divisions, 16 September for this purpose. Military specialists from both sides involved in organizing reliable defense of the capital of Georgia and other cities in the republic participated in the discussion.

As Eduard Shevardnadze reported at the latest State Council session, he has had a telephone conversation with Russian President Boris Yeltsin at the latter's initiative.

The head of the State Council informed the Russian Federation president about the uncontrollability of the confederation forces, which are persistently violating the cease-fire agreement. In response, Yeltsin expressed concern and alarm about the future of the Moscow agreements.

[Pachkoriya] "Yeltsin and I signed the final document of the Moscow meeting 3 September with a clear conscience," Shevardnadze said, speaking 17 September in Sukhumi at Abkhazia's Government House at a meeting with the city's inhabitants.

One of the purposes of the visit to Sukhumi by the head of the Georgian State Council was to meet with members of the commission to monitor the implementation of the Moscow agreements, but he did not succeed in seeing the Russian delegation, since it was unable to fly out from Sochi to Sukhumi because of bad flying conditions. From what Shevardnadze said, the Georgian side and he personally had gathered together a great many complaints and observations about the commission's work.

The head of the State Council spoke in favor of renewing the activity of the Abkhaz parliament and calling a session of the Abkhaz Supreme Soviet. "It is vital that the Abkhaz leadership and parliament continue to pursue the course of holding democratic elections in Abkhazia," he said. In his opinion, it is very important that the psychological barrier between the Georgian and Abkhaz deputies in the Supreme Soviet be overcome. Speaking of the elections to the Georgian parliament scheduled for October, Shevardnadze stressed that if these elections are not held, then "Georgia will be thrown either into chaos or into a state of military dictatorship."

Eduard Shevardnadze informed the audience that a concept for Abkhazia's future status as part of a single Republic of Georgia is being elaborated in the State Council, adding that he himself is in favor of preserving and strengthening Abkhazia's present status.

Sukhumi Commandant Replaced; Curfew Extended

LD2109082292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0726 GMT 21 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Kasoyev]

[Text] Tbilisi September 21 TASS—The Georgian Military Command has extended the curfew in Sukhumi, western Georgia, to October 20. Colonel of the guards Gubaz Urashvili was appointed as the new commandant of the city by Georgian Defence Minister Tengiz Kitovani's decree. He replaced on this post major-general of police Georgy Gulua.

Army Establishes Brigade in Abkhazia

LD2009202192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1903 GMT 20 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Sukhumi September 20 TASS—A professional army brigade on a contractual basis is being formed in the Abkhazian territory controlled by Georgian Army units. Brigadier-General Zurab Nairashviliy, deputy commander of the Georgian National Guards, said in an exclusive interview to ITAR-TASS that the brigade will consist of five battalions with a total numerical strenghth of 2,000. It will be deployed along the railway and highway from the state border of Georgia and Russia in Psou village to the Rukh bridge. There will also be a frontier post and a customs post in Psou.

The Sukhumi battalion has already been formed. The Ochamchira, Gagra and Kuribsha battalions are being created. The chief purpose of the brigade is to ensure safety on the railway and automobile routes in Abkhazia. The general said the brigade will be supplied with the required amounts of armoured equipment and fire arms. Reservists and volunteers aged from 18 to 35 are admitted.

According to the existing information, the Sukhumi battalion contains 70 per cent Georgians, 15 per cent Armenians. The remaining part consists of Russian, Greeks, Abkhazians and people of other nationalities. Colonel Kurashviliy was appointed brigade commader.

Minister Rules Out Land Concessions

AU2109073692 Vienna KURIER in German 19 Sep 92 p 3

[Interview with Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze by Sibylle Hamann in Tbilisi; date not given: "Territorial Concessions by Tbilisi to Abkhazia Are Inconceivable"]

[Text] [Hamann] Will Georgia need foreign help to put an end to the Abkhazia war?

[Chikvaidze] We must solve our problem alone—and it will take a long time. But Russia must help us to prevent the Chechens and other northern Caucasian peoples from interfering. Mercenaries are even infiltrated into Abkhazia from Syria and Iraq. If other countries are involved in the conflict, a catastrophe will be imminent.

[Hamann] Are territorial compromises conceivable?

[Chikvaidze] For us there is no doubt about territorial integrity. There is no non-Georgian land in Georgia.

Nowhere in the world would it be possible for minorities simply to declare themselves independent.

[Hamann] Does Georgia not fear the strengthening of Russian nationalism?

[Chikvaidze] We have a powerful neighbor, we must be very vigilant. Small states must not make great mistakes, and our situation is very difficult. Any form of nationalism is a threat. If Russia is destabilized, this will not only be a danger for Georgia, but for the whole of Europe. But Western Europe is moving very slowly in this respect. You spent much money on the weakening of the USSR and the Warsaw Pact. But today you are not generous enough to help the new states.

[Hamann] For how long will the Soviet troops remain in Georgia?

[Chikvaidze] We are preparing a treaty with Russia on the withdrawal of the Soviet troops. But we still need them here. Many countries are afraid of the Russian Army. Perhaps this is a myth, but as long as it is here, other countries keep their distance. But it is certain that Russia does not want to become involved in the Abkhazia conflict because our northern border is their southern border—if the riots escalate, they would themselves be in danger. During the rule of the Communist Party, the Russians always tried to encourage the Abkhazians to put up resistance to Georgia—but now they must be interested in the preservation of peace in the Caucasus.

Ministry To Protect Russian Air Defense Sites

LD1709183592 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0730 GMT 15 Sep 92

[Text] The Georgian Internal Affairs Ministry has decided to protect facilities of the air defense system belonging to Russian troops. Additional police forces were allocated to create safe conditions.

Estonia

No Clear Majority in Presidential Election

LD2109161192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1158 GMT 21 Sep 92

[By ETA-TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 21 TASS—According to the preliminary results of the presidential elections in Estonia on Sunday, none of the four candidates for the post of the Head of State gained the required absolute majority of votes.

The State Assembly, the republic's new supreme legislative body, will now have to choose between the two candidates who outpaced their rivals: Arnold Ruutel (42.67 per cent of votes) and Lennart Meri (28.77 per cent).

Ruutel, the former senior official of the Soviet Communist Party, is the chairman of the Estonian Parliament. Former Foreign Minister Meri is currently Estonia's ambassador to Finland.

Another candidate—Rein Taagepera [name as received], professor at California University, USA, is a citizen of Canada. He is of Estonian descent. Taagepera captured 23.5 per cent of votes. The fourth candidate won 3.8 per cent of votes.

A total of 457,319 people turned out for the presidential poll, which makes up 67.5 per cent of 660,864 eligible voters.

Citizens of Estonia living both in the republic and outside its boundaries—those to whom Estonian citizenship was restored under the Estonian law of 1938—took part in the elections. People who moved into Estonia in the post-war Soviet period, the overwhelming majority of whom are representatives of the Russian community that makes up about 40 per cent of the population, were not put on ballot papers.

This situation does not fit within the framework of international law, Nikolay Medvedev, chairman of the joint Russian-Estonian Commission to monitor the fulfillment of the treaty on the basic principles governing inter-state relations between Russia and Estonia, said in the run-up to elections.

Polls Preview Possible Election Results

OW2009162192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1519 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Presidential and parliamentary elections are held in Estonia on Sunday [20 September].

As BF [BALTFAX]'s correspondent reports from Tallinn, 46.32% of the registered voters cast their ballots by 14:00 local time. Preliminary results of the elections are expected to be received by 01:00 on September 21.

The presidential race includes the chairman of Estonia's parliament Arnold Ruutel, born in 1928, of the Kindel Kodu (Safe Home) bloc; Estonia's former foreign minister and now ambassador to Finland Lennart Meri, born in 1929, of the Isamaa (Fatherland) bloc; Tartu University professor and formerly California University instructor Rein Taagepera, born in 1933, of the Popular Front bloc; and Lagle Parek, leader of the National Independence Party, born in 1941.

Local analysts believe that no presidential candidate is likely to collect more than 50% of the vote required for being elected. In this case the newly elected parliament will have to elect the head of state. MPs [members of parliament] will have to choose from two candidates who collected the greatest number of votes in Sunday's elections. If both candidates collect an equal number of votes, the one who is older will become president.

According to different polls, the sympathies of Estonian voters are as follows:

	Aug. 7	Aug. 17	Aug. 27
Lennart Meri	29%	31%	29%
Lagle Parek	5	6	7
Arnold Ruutel	46	43	30
Rein Taagepera	18	12	10
undecided	2	8	23

628 candidates (25 of them nominated individually and the rest representing 17 election blocs) are contesting 101 seats in the parliament.

According to public opinion polls, Estonian voters have the following preferences:

	seats in parliament	candidates
Total	101	628
Isamaa (Fatherland)	24	101
Popular Front	21	104
Kindel Kodu (Safe Home)	17	73
Moderates	15	49
National Independence Party	10	97
Independent Royalists	7	30
The Greens	6	14
Farmers' Union	1	25

The lists of voters in Estonia include about 670,000 people.

International observers, including those from the Council of Europe, are supervising the process of elections in Estonia.

U.S. Finds Human Rights Issues Acceptable

OW1809180992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1605 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] US State Secretary Lawrence Eagleburger advised the Estonian foreign minister, Jaan Manitski that the US Administration has no objections to Estonia's handling of citizenship and human rights issues.

At the press conference in Tallinn dedicated to the results of the Estonian foreign minister's working visit to the United States September 15-17, Mr Manitski, however, had to admit that US public was receiving one-sided information about the situation in Estonia.

Delegation Head on Future Talks With Russia

LD2009201692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1901 GMT 20 Sep 92

[By ETA-TASS]

[Text] Tallinn September 20 TASS—After the elections to the State Assembly held in Estonia on Sunday [20 September], the delegation, engaged in interstate negotiations with Russia, should preserve continuity in the work started, State Minister Uno Veering, head of the Estonian delegation at the Estonian-Russian negotiations, told a press conference on Sunday. He said it is expedient to keep part of the delegation and a number of experts.

Six rounds of the negotiations between the Estonian Republic and the Russian Federation have already been held. The four main sets of items were on the agenda of all the meetings—items related to the military-political problems, specifically, Russian troop withdrawal from the Estonian territory, humanitarian problems and problems of the citizenship, border problems, and economic problems connected with property.

The delegations, however, proceed from different principles, so many problems remain unresolved. Thus, the Russian side believes that new states, specifically, Russia and Estonia, emerged after the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991. They are now United Nations members and should conduct interstate negotiations.

Estonia proceeds from the continuity of the Estonian state of 1918 which, from 1940 to 1991, was forcibly incorporated into the USSR. Hence, the difficulties in problems of granting and restoring citizenship and in frontier questions. Estonia proceeds from the 1920 peace treaty of Tartu under which the frontier was set. Russia proceeds from the Soviet administrative border of Soviet republics.

The State Assembly and the new government must resolve these problems. Uno Veering believes that both the Estonian and the Russian sides must be ready for compromises.

Ethnic Russians Subject to Discrimination

LD2009024792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 19 Sep 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The 42 percent Russian population will not be taking part in tomorrow's elections in Estonia. Today Nikolay Medvedev, chairman of the Russian-Estonian Commission for Monitoring the Implementation of the Interstate Treaty, expressed hope that the new Estonian state assembly would be concerned primarily with human rights rather than citizens' rights since the Russian population in Estonia does not have citizenship.

The commission has prepared documents showing that legislative acts adopted by the Estonian Government do not comply with the norms of international law. From the moment the republic acquired its independence, Russian citizens there became second-class people. The Russian side intends to make amendments to the bilateral treaty, in particular to Article 6 which concerns citizenship.

This question will be discussed on Monday [21 September] at the session of the Russian Supreme Soviet. If Estonia continues its policy of discrimination against the Russian population, Russia may halt the validity of the interstate treaty and apply economic sanctions.

Deputy's Lawsuit Against Government Refused

OW1809180692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1604 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Estonian evening daily paper "Ohtuleht", the Tallinn city court refused to comply with the suit brought by the Estonian Supreme Council deputy, Vladimir Lebedev, against the republic's government.

Member of the presidium of the Estonian Supreme Council, Vladimir Lebedev, placed his lawsuit against the government after the Passport Department denied him citizenship in the Estonian Republic. Mr Lebedev accused the Estonian government of violating the provisions of the Law on Citizenship and Russian-Estonian agreement of January, 1991.

The court has come to the conclusion that the plaintiff had no right to claim citizenship and passport of the Estonian Republic. The court verdict indicates that the Russian-Estonian agreement does not provide for automatically granting citizenship to all the applicants of either side, but it merely entitles a person to claim such citizenship in compliance with the regulations established by the republic's internal legislation.

Mr Lebedev intends to appeal against the court decision, averring that, in case of need, he would place his appeal to the International Court in Hague.

Lithuania

Candidates for Parliament Complete Registration

OW2109120392 Moscow BALTFAX in English
1113 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The registration of the candidates to the Sejm's deputies - a new Lithuanian parliament to be elected on October 25 - was completed the previous night.

According to the data presented by the chairman of the Main Election commission Vatslav Litvin to "BF" [BALTFAX], 8 political parties and 18 social-political movements are participating in the election campaign. The lists presented by them show that 800 candidates are running for the 70 deputy's mandates in multi-mandate election districts proportionally to the number of votes submitted for parties and movements and there are 440 candidates in one-mandate districts.

Four joint lists were presented to the Main Election commission. It is interesting to note that political parties and social-political organizations of a rightist orientation showed their willingness for unification. One of the lists brought together the Christian-Democratic party, Union of political prisoners and exiles of Lithuania, and Democratic party of Lithuania. The second list of the candidates was presented by "Sajudis", party of "greens", Civil Charter, and the Union of Political Prisoners. The present chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Vytautas Landsbergis is also on this list.

Landsbergis Tops Candidates List for Sejm

LD1909142892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1346 GMT 19 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladay Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius September 19 TASS—The bloc of the coalition of right-wing parties and socio-political movements for the election to the Sejm was officially formed under Sajudis' auspices in the Lithuanian capital today. The bloc was called Accord for Democratic Lithuania.

The act was signed in a ceremony by nine representatives of parties and movements at the republican conference of the Sajudis movement that opened in Vilnius's sports palace.

Delegates to the conference are expected to endorse the coalition's policy manifesto and the list of candidates for the Sejm. Vytautas Landsbergis, Lithuanian Supreme Soviet speaker and concurrently the honorary chairman of Sajudis, tops the list of contenders at the parliamentary elections that will take place under the multi-seat system.

Landsbergis refused to participate in the competition for a deputy seat in the single-seat constituency stating, not without grounds, that "state affairs and foreign policy do not allow him to spend time on election battles."

The coalition bloc fielded 215 candidates for the 141-seat Sejm.

Addressing the conference, Landsbergis called for conducting the election campaign in a befitting manner, within the framework of democratic principles, high political culture, and without contenders' mutual insults.

Landsbergis Says Economy at 'Critical Point'

LD1909105192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English
2300 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Chairman of parliament, Vytautas Landsbergis, compared the situation in Lithuania's economy to two-way traffic—one direction of the movement, much depending on the developments both in Russia and Lithuania, led to pressure, disorder, and decline; the other was that of the rise. In his opinion, Lithuania is approaching a critical point when the falling line will transform into a rising one.

In his radio address today, Mr. Vytautas Landsbergis paid special attention to foreign investments. Foreign capital coming to Lithuania was an indicator that things would soon start changing and a breakthrough would come, he said. Another indicator was the people's resolve to reorient their activity and seek their own reserves instead of subsidies from the state.

Commenting on his upcoming visit to Belgium next week, Mr. Landsbergis pointed out that he was especially interested in the meeting with the chairman of the European Community Commission, the unofficial president of the future Europe, Mr Jacques Delors. Besides a general discussion of state affairs, he intends to ask for a very definite thing—aid for the Lithuanian country in liquified gas.

Utility Costs, Prices Rise

LD2009204392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1907 GMT 20 Sep 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius September 20 TASS—This September in Lithuania saw the record price increases. The weekly "POSITSIA" gave the following information on Sunday [20 September]:

There were steep price rises on petrol, electricity, food products and the pay for communal and everyday services in the first ten days of September. The water supply of apartments is costly. Thus, from September 1 the charge per person in Vilnius (including infants) for cold water is over 63 roubles per month. The charge for hot water which is supplied only twice a week is over 87 roubles.

It was announced that the pay for telephone and its installment, tariffs for intercity and international telephone conversations increases from September 21. For example, one minute of telephone conversation with Moscow or St. Petersburg will cost 12 roubles (six roubles at present). One minute of a conversation with a subscriber in the U.S. will cost 520 roubles.

Despite constant price rises, the Lithuanian Government submitted to parliament a draft on freezing fully or partially the growth of wages for up to six months in all branches of the economy and in organisations financed from the budget, as well as the freezing of pensions.

Butkevicius: Russian Troop Withdrawal 'Controlled'

LD1909103192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2300 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] The Lithuanian Minister of National Defence, Audrius Butkevicius, considers that the Russian army withdrawal has already begun, is controlled, and goes on successfully, yet major work still lies ahead. He said at a news conference today that during the 10 days since the signing of agreements in Moscow, Russia had already made the first steps so that some definite units might be withdrawn already this year, as laid down in the agreements. These units are a paratrooper regiment in the south-western Lithuanian town of Marijampole, a coast defence artillery regiment based in Telsiai, western Lithuania, and the Vilnius-stationed motorised infantry division. The latter's territory and objects are to be handed over to Lithuania by the end of November.

Troop Numbers in Kaliningrad Concern NATO

LD1909101492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2300 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] Admiral William Dan Smith, U.S. representative at the NATO Military Committee, arrived in Vilnius today. His visit to Lithuania was timed for the arrival of a group of NATO warships to the port city of Klaipeda.

Today Admiral Smith had a meeting with Chairman of Parliament Vytautas Landsbergis and then, together with the Lithuanian minister of national defence, Audrius Butkevicius, the U.S. Navy admiral gave a news conference. He voiced the concern of NATO top commanders over the concentration of Russian troops in Kaliningrad region on the Baltic Sea coast, saying that if the concentration of troops was going to continue it would develop into a major concern for NATO. Admiral Smith maintains that even distribution of armaments around the Baltic Sea would make the best precondition for stability in the region. He also declared that it would be ideal if all the states of the Baltic Sea basin agreed to cut down their armed forces to the minimum.

In the afternoon, Admiral William Dan Smith left Vilnius for Klaipeda, where he visited the NATO warships that have come to the port. Tomorrow the NATO guest will visit Kaunas and Trakai and then will fly back to the NATO headquarters in Brussels.